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Foreign Ministers Sign Declaration on Adriatic

LD1307213491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1645 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Ancona, July 13 (TANJUG)—The foreign ministers of Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania—Gianni de Michelis, Budimir Loncar, Antonis Samaras and Mohamed Kaplani—signed a declaration on the ecological protection of the Adriatic in Ancona today. The declaration is of broader importance for the region, above all political.

The matter concerns the practical implementation of the Adriatic initiative launched in Umag (Yugoslavia) in September 1989 by Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti and Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

The four countries expressed their responsibility and readiness to protect the Adriatic.

The importance of and broader interest for this initiative is seen in the presence of the president of the European Community (EC) Commission for the Environment, Carlo Ripa de Meana.

Gianni de Michelis told a press conference following the signing of the declaration, that it surpassed ambiental importance and was an integrating influence in a region of great importance to peace and security in Europe.

De Michelis announced that Italy would sign a new financial protocol (1991-1993), the so-called "second memorandum on agreement" with Yugoslavia, and that all Yugoslav republics would participate in its preparation and conclusions, and especially in the protocol's practical implementation.

De Michelis also said that Italy would open general consulates in all Yugoslav republics, with the aim of strengthening dialogue and links, and for a greater overall understanding of all Yugoslav viewpoints on its crisis.

Italy has consulates in Zagreb (capital of Croatia) and Ljubljana (capital of Slovenia).

De Michelis said that the opening of general consulates in all the republics did not affect Italy's stand on the resolving of the Yugoslav crisis, which is identical to that of the EC.

He welcomed a Greek Government's initiative for the signing of an agreement with Bulgaria and Turkey on the destruction of aggressive weapons, as a contribution to the processes of calming down and the building of a new European architecture.

The four ministers held a 30-minute meeting before signing the Adriatic declaration. Later, at a press conference, De Michelis expressed joint expectations that the Yugoslav crisis would be resolved in a peaceful and democratic way and in the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter.

At the meeting of the four ministers, Budimir Loncar underscored that all is being done in Yugoslavia to secure conditions for peaceful and democratic dialogue on the country's future.

"Our burning hope is that we will manage to return peace and internal balance through the strict implementation of European criteria and with the help of mechanisms of the EC and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Their contribution in finding a lasting and peaceful solution to the current crisis in Yugoslavia is of vital importance," underscored Loncar.

Hungary, CSFR, Poland Submit Arms Proposal

LD1707211891 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1900 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] In Vienna, Hungary, together with her two neighbors, subnmitted a joint proposal which says that units of the internal security and other semi-military organizations should also be involved in the planned reduction of traditional military forces. The initiative was prepared by our country's experts together with their Czechoslovak and Polish colleagues. Ambassador Istvan Gyarmathi, leader of the Hungarian delegation, said in his speech that the assessment on limiting the number of the military can only be carried out on a national scale in every state, individually.

Budapest, Prague, and Warsaw consider it important that the accord under preparation states that no single country should have a larger military force than one-third of the total number of units of the 22 negotiating states.

ATA Reviews 18 Jul Tirana Newspapers

AU1807185291 Tirana ATA in English 0857 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 18 (ATA) — The newspapers write about the proceedings of the People's Assembly on July 17, where the work to approve the land bill has begun.

The newspaper ZERI I POPULLIT and BASHKIMI write that Premier Ylli Bufi received, on July 17, the delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. The same newspapers report that the Egyptian delegation left our country. There is also a report on the signing of the agreement between the academies of sciences of Albania and Bulgaria as well as on the meeting between Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani and the well-known Albanian compatriot in America, Ekrem Bardhi.

The newspaper REPUBLIKA writes on the meeting between the leaders of the Republican Party and the well-known Albanian compatriot in America, Ekrem Bardhi, as well as on the great national campaign organised by this party for recognition of the Republic of Kosovo by the Albanian state and the international bodies and states of the world. This newspaper carries an interview with the vice-president of the U.S. company, Occidental International Exploration and Production Company, entitled: "The Americans Hope to Find Huge Quantities of Oil and Gas in Albania".

The newspaper KOMBI carries an interview with the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova, entitled: "Integration of the United Nation in the United Europe". This newspaper writes on the activities organised recently by the Party of National Unity in Tirana, Kavaje, and Fier.

The newspapers continue to write on the course of events in Yugoslavia and Kosovo. On the fourth page, under the title: "Kosovo and the Yugoslav Crisis", the newspaper ZERI I POPULLIT carries a number of items, such as the article written by Lulzim Cota entitled: "So That There Will Be No More Perverse Years for the Albanians", the report: "The Serbs Are Given Land Free of Charge to Settle in Kosovo", the open letter of Kosovar lawyer Hysni Bytyci, addressed to the federal secretary of foreign affairs of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar, entitled: "We Have Not Yet Heard Your Voice Against the Terror Exercised Against the Albanians", etc.

In other reports, the newspapers cover recent developments in the international arena.

Armed Illegal Border Crossers Sighted in Tropoje

AU1807210491 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Editorial Report] Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian at 1800 GMT on 18 July carries a four-minute telephone report from a reporter in Tropoje District stating that a group of people illegally crossed the border from Yugoslavia into Tropoje District on the night of 17 July in the area near the Tropoje Canal. They were carrying "grenades and other military equipment." The residents of the border area were reminded of their duty to report such incidents immediately to the authorities and the law and order authorities were urged to take preventive measures.

People's Assembly Debates Draft Law on Land

AU1807095991 Tirana ATA in English 0759 GMT 18 Jul 91

["From the Proceedings of the People's Assembly"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, July 18 (ATA)—In the before noon sitting of July 17, the People's Assembly continued to examine and then adopt the draft law on the land. Present was also the president of the Republic, Ramiz Alia.

Representatives of the parliamentary groups and the deputies who took the floor stressed the need of adopting the draft law as soon as possible and according to the proposals forwarded so that to stabilize the situation in the countryside.

Voting for the three variants presented on 2nd article of this draft law began in the afternoon, on the variant of the group of deputies of the Socialist Party, the commission of agriculture, and the commission on the socio-economic problems of the countryside and the government.

The proceedings of the assembly will continue on July 18. It will examine the other articles of this draft law.

Assembly Debate Continues

AU1907084891 Tirana ATA in English 0755 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 19 (ATA)—After the approval of the 2nd article of the draft-law "on land" on July 17, which was the basic article, the proceedings of the People's Assembly resumed on July 18 before noon with the debate and approval of the other articles of this draft-law.

Making numerous debates, the deputies adopted the Articles 1 and 3 till the Article 6. Among others these articles define the division of the land in the Republic of Albania in the arable land, land occupied by forests, pastures and valleys as well as the non-arable land. They define the criteria for renting the land to foreign physical and juridical persons according to some provisions etc.

In the afternoon sitting the Articles 7 till 14 were approved. They define among others that the specialised state organ for making evident the data on land is the cadastre in the Executive Committee, the Government Land Commission and the commissions in the districts will be set up to avoid irregularities that have occurred of

late, the juridical and physical persons that take agricultural land for usage are obliged to exploit it only for agricultural aims etc.

The proceedings of the People's Assembly will continue on July 19 at 9.00.

Scientific Agreement Signed With Bulgaria

AU1807184691 Tirana ATA in English 0759 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 18 (ATA) — On July 15, a delegation of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences headed by its president, Academician Bllagovest Sendov, arrived in our country. Talks between the delegations of the Academy of Sciences of Albania and the Academy of Sciences of Bulgaria were held on July 16.

On July 17, the long-term agreement of scientific cooperation between the two academies and the respective protocol for its implementation was signed at the academy. These documents were signed for the Albanian side by Prof. Hekuran Mara, vice-president of the Albanian Academy, and, for the Bulgarian side by Academician Bllagovest Sendov, president of the Bulgarian Academy.

Attending the signing ceremony were the members of the two delegations, the chairman of the Committee of Science and Technology, Dr. Petrit Skende, members of the presidium and directors of the institutes of our Academy of Sciences etc. The ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria in Tirana, Stephan Naumov, was also present.

Trade Unions Meet With U.S. Advisers

AU1907092291 Tirana ATA in English 0911 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 19 (ATA)—The union of the independent trade unions of Shkoder District organized a meeting with Mr. Tony Freeman, adviser of the State Department on Labour Affairs in the USA and Mr. Don Slaymen, representative of the International Confederation of the Independent Trade Unions and the US trade unions who have come to our country these days.

Ferdinant Temali, chairman of the branch of the district independent trade unions, who opened the meeting, wished the American guests welcome in Shkoder for this meeting with representatives of the independent trade unions.

Mr. Freeman voiced his satisfaction over the democratic developments in the Albanian pluralistic life, stressing that for this the Albanian people have won the respect of the peoples of the world and of the American people. He spoke of the support our country will find over this road, expressing once more the conviction that the Albanian people will construct the future themselves.

Besides, Mr. Slaymen spoke of the role the independent trade unions will play in the life of the working people and in defence of their interests.

They responded also the questions put by those present in the meeting.

Republican Party Campaigns for Kosovo Recognition

AU1807185091 Tireana ATA in English 0850 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 18 (ATA)—Recently, the branches of the Albanian Republican Party started in all the country's districts the great national campaign for the recognition of Kosovo as a republic on the part of the Albanian state and all the international bodies and states of the world.

An appeal of this party asks, among other things, that the members and supporters of this party sign a petition, which supports the Republic of Kosovo proclaimed by the Assembly of Kacanik on September 7, 1990 and the recognition of the right to self-determination of the Albanians living in their territories in Macedonia, Montenegro, and southeastern Serbia.

Zhelev Speaks at Levski Commemoration Rally

AU1807200291 Sofia BTA in English 1908 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 18 (BTA)—At the commemoration of an indisputable national hero in Bulgaria's modern history, President Zhelyu Zhelev sought parallels between the great struggle in the past and Bulgaria's present. Addressing a ceremony in the hero's native town of Karlovo which marked Vasil Levski's 154th birth anniversary today, Bulgaria's head of state called on the nation to unite. Vasil Levski, also known as the apostle of freedom, was hanged in 1873. He inspired and organized the Bulgarians' struggle against the five-century-long Ottoman domination.

President Zhelyu Zhelev said that Bulgaria is going through a difficult stage in its development. This is a period of replacement of the totalitarian system which had been built for 45 years and of transition to a market-oriented economy. The moral and political qualities of ordinary people and political leaders are put to the test, they will have to show whether they can place national interests before narrow partisan and personal interests.

Bulgaria—democratic, Bulgaria—republican, Bulgaria—sovereign and independent, Bulgaria—a worthy member of the family of European nations: That was the cause for which Levski fought all his life. The president called on Bulgarians to take up this cause.

President Zhelev on Treaty With USSR

AU1807173391 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 15 Jul 91 pp 1,4

[Interview with President Zhleyu Zhelev, by Senior Lieutenant Krasimir Uzunov; place and date not given: "Reciprocity Is the Best Guarantee for the Future"]

[Excerpts] [Uzunov] Mr. President, the Bulgarian mass media have recently been conducting a heated discussion about the new Bulgarian-Soviet Treaty, which is in the process of of being drafted. Certain political forces are trying to turn this issue into an argument to be used in the forthcoming election campaign. What is your view, Mr. President, on the expediency and necessity of signing a new bilateral treaty?

[Zhelev] It is true that the question of signing a Bulgarian-Soviet Treaty has recently become a subject of heated discussions and even of manipulations. However, before dealing with the subject of the Bulgarian-Soviet Treaty, we should agree that the Treaty on Friendship and Mutual Assistance between our two countries signed in 1967 no longer conforms with the present conditions and with our mutual interests. The treaty and its clauses belong to the irrevocable past.

Naturally, we are expecting to draft and sign a Bulgarian-Soviet treaty that should conform with our interests concerning the Soviet Union and with the interests of the Soviet Union in Bulgaria. Like all other future treaties Bulgaria is expected to sign, the treaty with the USSR should be based on mutual advantage and equal rights and should reflect the spirit of the changes in both countries. The treaty should also express Bulgaria's new statute of sovereignty, its democratic image, and the irrevocability of the democratic changes, which also applies to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet leadership also shows understanding for the necessity to update our relations and place them on a new foundation. It could not be otherwise, since both countries are proceeding toward democracy. We are not talking about the rates of speed in this respect. The market economy is being introduced in Bulgaria, a process that is inevitable for the Soviet Union. Hence, our economic interests oblige us to find a common language in a treaty. As far as the question of whether certain political leaders in our country are trying to take advantage of our relations with the Soviet Union and of the difficult conditions under which we are living, you realize that such attempts exist and will be pursued in the future. The motivations prompting them are evident. However, we should all distinguish between party and state interests. No one can deny that the signing of such a treaty is expedient and that our traditional mutual interests with the Soviet Union still exist. [passage omitted]

[Uzunov] During his visit to our country, NATO General Secretary Manfred Woerner confirmed his organization's stand reflected in the documents adopted at the Copenhagen meeting of the 16 NATO member countries' foreign ministers that bilateral relations between the former allies of Eastern Europe and their relations with the Soviet Union should be further pursued. Mr. President, how do you evaluate Bulgaria's contacts with NATO and our future cooperation?

[Zhelev] The visit of NATO Secretary General Dr. Manfred Woerner to Sofia once more agitated the spirits about the question of whether Bulgaria should apply for NATO membership. Let us be realistic and admit that NATO is not willing to expand its membership for the time being.

On the other hand, the Warsaw Pact no longer exists which makes the East European countries feel perhaps less secure, but certainly more free. After the Prague Conference of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee, which was the last session in the 36 years of the organization's existence, we became more independent and neutral. Naturally, our neutrality is not the same as that of Austria and Switzerland, but we should by no means regard NATO as the other bloc that we should by all means join as a member. [passage omitted] Our cooperation with NATO and with its member countries is not aimed at transferring the line of confrontation to the Western borders of the Soviet Union because the USSR is also a part of Europe.

[Uzunov] Mr. President, we are confronted with a series of unprecedented changes in Europe. Boris Yeltsin, who is not a CPSU member, was elected president of Russia and numerous futurologists are predicting a reorganization or even a disintegration of the USSR. Do you assume in this context that it is possible to start with preparation for signing bilateral treaties with the Soviet republics, along with the drafting of the new Bulgarian-Soviet Treaty?

[Zhelev] During the Paris summit meeting in November 1990 I held a talk with Mikhail Gorbachev, the president of the Soviet Union. On that occasion the Soviet side expressed the view that there are no obstacles for Bulgaria to establish contacts with any of the Soviet republics. However, the Soviet-Bulgarian treaty should be signed first. Relations with the other republics are a question of future work, analysis, assessments, and specific interests. Our future contacts will greatly depend on the development of the situation in the Soviet Union.

As far as the development of relations in the near future, the Soviet president accepted the invitation to visit Bulgaria whenever it would be convenient for him. In the greetings telegram I sent to Boris Yeltsin on the occasion of his election to the post of Russian president I also invited him to visit Bulgaria. Our relations with the Soviet Union are based on reciprocal interests, which is the most reliable guarantee of future cooperation....

Vulkov Briefed by SFRY Envoy on Events

AU1807172691 Sofia BTA in English 1654 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 18 (BTA)—Mr. Viktor Vulkov, minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, received the ambassador of Yugoslavia in Sofia, Mr. Milenko Stefanovic, at his request. Mr. Stefanovic familiarized Mr. Vulkov with the political situation in Yugoslavia. It was stressed that the high level of the Bulgaro-Yugoslav dialogue should be maintained in a spirit of good-neighbourliness, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told BTA.

BSP, SDS Rallies For, Against Constitution

AU1807202091 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1900 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] This evening a rally was held in Ruse under the slogan "In defense of the Constitution, liberty, and democracy," organized by the Ruse Municipal Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]. Members of the legislature Andrey Lukanov and Georgi Tambuev took part. In a declaration addressed to the legislature and the president of the Republic, the participants in the rally confirmed their firm support for the new Constitution and declared that they would defend it in the name of democracy and civil peace.

In his speech, Andrey Lukanov called upon the citizens of Ruse to support true democracy by casting their votes for those who are working for Bulgaria.

An hour and a half later, a rally of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] began despite the continuing heavy rain, which had fallen throughout the BSP rally. The rally was aimed against the new constitutional enslavement of the Bulgarian people, and the participants reiterated the demand for a referendum.

In Silistra, an all-city rally took place, convened by the municipal leaderships of the BSP, the Fatherland Union, the Reservist Officers' and World War II Veterans' Organization, the Bulgarian Anti-Fascist Union, and the Union of Democratic Youth, in defense of the Constitution, liberty, and democracy. In his speech, MP Filip Bokov stressed that the new Constitution guarantees the peaceful transition to democracy. The rally adopted a declaration addressed to the president, the chairman of the National Assembly, and the prime minister, urging them to defend the Constitution, liberty, and democracy.

A big rally was held today in Sliven by the SDS, which the opposition had appointed to lead their election campaign in the municipality. Mikhail Nedelchev, spokesman of the SDS National Coordinating Council, was presented a petition with 7,000 signatures of Sliven citizens who wanted a referendum on the new Constitution. Mr. Nedelchev declared that so far over 100,000 signatures had been collected in support of a referendum, and that the opposition urged the SDS members of the legislature on hunger strike to stop their action and return to the legislature to continue their struggle by legislative means.

In Vratsa, a large rally was held by the BSP, which was attended by members of the BSP Supreme Council. The speakers supported the country's new Constitution and spoke out against the action of the National Assembly deputies on hunger strike, which is heightening the tension in the country.

Dimitrov Asks SDS MP's To End Hunger Strike

AU1807172891 Sofia BTA in English 1649 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 18 (BTA)—Mr. Filip Dimitrov, chairman of the National Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), called on the 23 fasting opposition MP's to end their hunger strike and start working for a SDS election victory. He indicated that they had made their point. "Your efforts and suffering in the last few days yielded obvious results to the democratic cause," Mr. Dimitrov said, adding: "The BSP (Bulgarian Socialist Party) is afraid of the elections, there will be elections—they have been scheduled—and this was your first demand."

"The Grand National Assembly has dissolved itself. The attempt to exclude you from plenary sittings proved that the Bulgarian Communist Party is afraid of your speeches. As a result of your strike, you received support from the president and the ministers and you can return

to the debating chamber to stand up for your views—and this is what you demanded back on May 14," Mr. Dimitrov says.

"The question of the referendum on the new Constitution has already been raised, and from now on you have the chance to press this democratic demand in the present and the future parliament. Obviously, the Communists are afraid to hear the people's voice and you help everybody realize this."

"A hunger strike is not an act of violence but a way to make dialogue possible," Mr. Dimitrov says.

"The election campaign is starting in which the SDS needs you. Supporters of democracy want you fit and efficient so that you can invest your energy in the victory of the democratic forces," Mr. Filip Dimitrov says in conclusion.

SDS Urges Immediate Danov Resignation

AU1807171791 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 15 Jul 91 p 1

[Declaration of legislative group of SDS-National Movement demanding Minister Danov's resignation; place and date of issue not given]

[Text] We, the people's representatives of the parliamentary group of the Union of Democratic Forces-National Movement express our indignation at the brutal and illegal encounter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' security forces who carried out attacks on MP's and citizens.

While reproaching the organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in this incident, we blame the conduct and position of the Minister of Internal Affairs Mr. Khristo Danov, which was expressed on Bulgarian Radio's "Nedelya-150" program on 14 July 1991.

We insist on the immediate resignation of the Minister of Internal Affairs Khristo Danov.

Our grounds for this are as follows:

1. The premeditated dispatching of a cordon made up of the security forces to the vicinity of Sofia University.

2. The two-day silence of Minister Danov on the incident when MP's were beaten.

3. The absence of an official apology from the minister and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

4. The cynical gratitude expressed by Minister Danov to "the boys from the militia" for their actions in restoring order.

5. The premeditated discrimination shown toward the striking MP's shown by the doubt about their evidence concerning the incident.

It must be well known to Minister Danov that the MP's are inviolable and have an MP's immunity. The violation of this immunity is sufficient argument for the resignation of the minister of internal affairs in any democratic country.

Assembly Rejects Referendum on New Constitution

AU1807160991 Sofia BTA in English 1444 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 18 (BTA)—Mr. Stoyan Ganev, co-chairman of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) National Movement parliamentary faction which walked out of parliament on May 14, turned up in parliament today. On July 10 the MP's who had boycotted parliament went on hunger strike. Today the MP's of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), who walked out of parliament on June 7, returned to the National Assembly.

On behalf of the SDS National Movement faction, Mr. Ganev moved that the problem of holding a referendum on the new Constitution be included in the agenda. "Since the elections have already been scheduled for September, it will be advisable to conduct the referendum later," Mr. Ganev told parliament.

Mr. Lyuben Kornezov MP of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) said on behalf of the Constitutional Drafting Committee that the referendum motion is unwarranted and unconstitutional because the new Constitution, which entered into force on July 13, does not provide for conducting such a referendum. The demand to hold a referendum on an already valid statutory act is unprecedented in international practice.

The DPS parliamentary faction alone made a declaration in support of the referendum motion.

After a heated debate, only 30 MP's voted in favour of the motion that the referendum issue be placed on the agenda.

The SDS MP's continue their hunger strike. After parliament refused to debate the problem of a referendum, the strikers opened a meeting and are expected to come up with a stand later today. Parliament has already met the other two demands: scheduling elections in September and dropping the requirement that all MP's should be resworn in by the new Constitution.

Assembly Passes 1991 Budget Updating Act

AU1807202691 Sofia BTA in English 1935 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 18 (BTA)—Parliament voted down one of the demands of the MP's who had been on hunger strike for eight days. The National Assembly rejected the referendum motion made by Mr. Stoyan Ganev, one of the striking MP's. The Constitutional Drafting Committee cited legal grounds against holding a referendum.

The Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), an organization of the ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, alone supported the demand of the striking MP's.

Parliament adopted the 1991 Budget Update Bill on second reading. The budget deficit does not exceed 8,500,000,000 leva. Under the new act, the deficit will be financed by securities, treasury bonds and a National Bank of Bulgaria credit which should not amount to more than half of the deficit.

Parliament ratified a credit agreement between Bulgaria and the EC. The credit will be used to restructure Bulgaria's economy, to cover part of the budget deficit and to increase the country's foreign-exchange reserves.

Mr. Filip Dimitrov, chairman of the Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), called on the fasting MP's to call off their hunger strike and join the SDS effort to ensure the election victory of the opposition in the next parliamentary elections. The SDS leader said that two of the strikers' demands had already been met and that the striking MP's should take active part in the election campaign.

The Parliamentary Committee on Radio and Television reminded radio and television journalists that they should provide balanced coverage of life in this country. The committee argued that it is unacceptable for journalists to serve any political party or force.

According to the parliamentary committee, the demands for the resignation of the television chief are groundless because the national television and radio have a provisional status and because the managements of these two media are elected by the National Assembly.

The committee confirms the freedom of speech and press guaranteed by the Constitution.

In a declaration received in the BTA, the Union of Bulgarian Journalists says that under the current strongly politicized situation journalists often come under pressure from various quarters. The union opposes any attempts to impose censorship on the mass media.

The Council of Ministers approved a finance memorandum between Bulgaria's Government and the Commission of the European Communities on financing the structural adjustment of this country's economy, on privatization and on the promotion of small- and medium-size private companies.

Under the PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] Programme Bulgaria will receive 20 million ecu [European currency units] by the end of 1994. The funds will be used to develop the country's infrastructure, for technical assistance and to help small- and medium-size enterprises. A group of consultants will be formed, too.

The Council of Ministers accepted the recommendations of the IAEA concerning the Bulgarian electricity-generating nuclear reactors. Units One and Two of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant will be shut down for repairs. After repair works are completed the units will be inspected by foreign experts before going back in operation.

The government heard the report of a special commission which had been set up to appraise the damages inflicted by the recent flood in the towns of Turnovo, Gabrovo and Dryanovo (northern Bulgaria). The report values the damages at 160 to 180 million leva.

The Union for Private Radio Enterprise is alarmed by the "aliens" in the air. The union opposes the decision to allocate four more frequencies to foreign radio stations, which will bring the number of the "invaders" to seven. "Nobody wants to hear anything about the supporters of private radio in Bulgaria," the union says.

The Trade Unions of Railway Workers in Bulgaria are dissatisfied with the government's failure to do anything about the problems in this area. They warn that if their demands are not considered by the end of the month, they will stop all passenger trains for one hour on August 5.

KNSB's Petkov Warns Popov on Social Peace

AU1807080891 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 12 July 91 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Krustyo Petkov Met With Dimitur Popov"]

[Text] On the evening of 12 July, a meeting took place between Prof. Krustyo Petkov and Prime Minister Dimitur Popov. The chairman of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria [KNSB] sharply raised the question of the extremely tense situation in a number of enterprises, companies, and branches that has arisen due to the delay in implementing the Social Peace Agreement and insufficiently energetic and specific action on the part of the government. This allows the possibility of using the collectives' well-founded trade union demands for launching protest and strike action, including extremist and terrorist acts that could develop into a national conflict. When informing the prime minister about the session of the KNSB's National Strike Committee, Professor Petkov insisted on the problem of company debts' being looked at and resolved quickly, and on an even more vigorous policy for reviving production, for taking special measures to combat unemployment, and for clarifying the status of employers in order that normal wage negotiations could take place. The KNSB put forward its demand that the government should implement its policy before the elections in such a way as not to allow these companies to go bankrupt. Prime Minister Popov's assistance was requested in expediting the Grand National Assembly's approval of the budget and the changes to the Labor Code, its voting on the Privatization Law and ratification of the government's international financial agreements.

Professor Petkov openly declared to the prime minister that if the government, parliament and the political forces did not stir themselves and constructively channel

their actions into maintaining social peace, the confederation would not be in a position to continue in its role of guardian of the peace.

Fire at Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant Reported

AU1807154591 Sofia BTA in English 1526 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 18 (BTA)—A fire broke out on July 15 in a compartment in the soft radioactive waste depot in the eastern section of open distributor No. 1 at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant.

The fire was extinguished by the firefighters on duty at the power plant.

Mr. Kuncho Kunev, director of the Kozloduy Power Plant, said a working commission of inquiry into the causes of the fire is taking the appropriate action.

Interested Parties Discuss Kozloduy Situation

AU1907081291 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 13 Jul 91 p 2

[Nikolay Stoychev report]

[Text] The Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant is dangerous, but we cannot manage without it. That was the opinion of the participants in the news conference on 12 July on the subject of "What we know and do not know about the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant." The organizers—the Presidency's Commission on Nuclear Energy, Bulgaria's Power Engineers' Union and the Survival Club—had invited journalists and representatives of every organization with an interest in the Kozloduy problem. The participants exchanged opinions on the state of nuclear energy in Bulgaria and the reasons that led to the present situation. Deputy Minister of the Environment Bosenski spoke about the attitude of Western Europe toward eventual cooperation with Bulgaria in the sphere of power supplies. It was repeatedly pointed out that the problems that had come to a head had not been a secret to our Bulgarian experts, but the enforced taboos of the previous governments had hindered them from being sorted out in time. Prospects for developing Bulgaria's power supplies were discussed.

IAEA Recommendations on Kozloduy Accepted

AU1807143591 Sofia BTA in English 1317 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 18 (BTA)—Today the Council of Ministers heard and approved a report by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandur Tomov on the meeting of experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna on July 9. The government passed a decision to fulfill the IAEA recommendations. The government assigned the Power Engineering Committee to organize the switch-off of the first two WWER-440 reactors at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant by August 15 and September 15, respectively. The schedule can be altered for technical reasons. By August 31 the Power Engineering Committee should work out and approve a schedule for the shut-down of the generating units. After an overhaul the generating units will be restarted only after a check-up by a special commission including all supervisory bodies and Bulgarian and foreign experts in an observer status.

Government Approves Allocation of EC Aid

AU1807161391 Sofia BTA in English 1313 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 18 (BTA)—The Council of Ministers considered and approved today a finance memorandum between the Bulgarian Government and the EC Commission concerning financing the restructuring of businesses, privatization and the development of small- and medium-size companies.

Under the PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] programme Bulgaria will receive ecu [European currency units] 20 million by the end of 1994. They will be distributed as follows: 2 million to develop the infrastructure, 12.5 million to set up a technical assistance fund, 2.5 million to set up a fund supporting small- and medium-size businesses, and 3 million to form a consultancy group.

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Services was put in charge of the project. The project will be financed from a new fund which will be managed by the newly-established recovery and development facility with the National Bank of Bulgaria. A privatization agency will take over these functions when it is established.

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The government today approved a Decree on Foreign Citizens' Training in Bulgaria. Higher educational establishments will have the right to enrol hard-currency-paying foreign citizens. Tuition fees will be negotiated on a year-by-year basis. Higher educational establishments will not receive budget allocations for foreign citizens' training.

Private Commodity Exchange Opens in Sofia

AU1907075891 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 16 Jul 91 p 2

[Katya Yaneva report]

[Text] Within 48 hours the members of the exchange will be able to buy or sell anything they want, explained Aleksandur Danailov, president of the "Satelit Bank"

Company, which is organizing a national private commodity exchange. The exchange was formed on 15 July at a business meeting with candidate members of the exchange.

In return for a contribution of 10,000 leva, state and private companies and citizens can become associate members of the exchange. The exchange will hold its first session on 23 or 24 July in the House of Soviet Science and Culture in Sofia.

The exchange will deal in agricultural products and products of the food and tobacco industry, chemical products, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, raw materials, industrial goods, and consumer products. "Satelit Bank" will act as a credit clearing house, Mr. Danailov explained.

The associate members will deal at the lowest prices. Foreign companies will not participate. If they wish to do so, they will have to do this through the associate members.

The Lyon and New York exchanges served as the models for the new exchange; these have no restrictions on the goods that can be offered. The brokering and certain organizational regulations have been borrowed from the Moscow exchange, with which working links will soon be established.

About 20 companies have already applied to be accepted as associate members. Offers have been received for the purchase of goods valued at 4.5 billion leva.

Agricultural Changes Seen Proceeding Slowly

AU1807080391 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 12 Jul 91 p 1

[Petyo Minev article: "Shall We Reap, Gentlemen, Next Year?"]

[Text] We shall reap if we sow, of course. At the moment, that, to say the least, is doubtful. This is simply because nobody sows on another's land without being sure that, come the summer, he will be the one who reaps and not somebody else.

At present, Lyuben Kharalampiev, chairman of the Federation of Independent Agricultural Trade Unions, believes that the situation is assuming catastrophic proportions. In any case, be it good or bad, praiseworthy or controversial, parliament has at least bestowed on us the Law on Ownership and Use of Agricultural Lands, and from the government we have the regulations for its implementation. From here onwards though, things begin to falter. The formation of municipal agricultural commissions is going ahead at a snail's pace in typical old Bulgarian fashion, and in total harmony with our partisan Balkan mentality. And if we at least allow that they get themselves moving and return the land to its former owners, in say a month or a month and a half, then it is more than certain that they will not kill themselves to sow wheat and barley. The process of creating family or private farms will take years and will depend on economic conditions.

Therefore, whether we want to or not, we shall have to wait for the labor cooperative farms to once again fill our barns. In their present form, they are living out their last days. The puzzle is how the labor cooperative farms, as early as September, are going to turn into free, independent, democratic cooperatives of owners who will inherit the material facilities of the former farms but will be working under new production conditions; in other words, private ownership of land, rent, property shares, dividends, and so on.

That, however, is one side of the coin. The other is how, in these stormy times and against a background of the ingrained economic and financial crisis that has us in a stranglehold, to breathe life into those farms that are up to their eyes in debt and how to support the fragile saplings which are beginning to spring up in the yards of family and private farms. In this respect, for the time being there is total darkness and resounding uncertainty. The expected rise in the purchase price of some agricultural products, a doubtful measure in itself in this form, is, nevertheless, something, but bitter disappointment awaits anybody who is relying on this to stop the fall in production and lead to plenty. What is needed here is a considered and precise government program, for which the agricultural trade unions have stubbornly been pushing for a long time, and what is especially important is that this program is clear and understandable, and with a fixed time scale. However difficult it is for the Ministry of Finance, the government must loosen its purse strings because, it is a well-known fact that something does not come from nothing and you have to throw yourself into something to get anything out of it.

Slovak Council Approves Social Welfare Measures

AU1907102591 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 17 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[A. Melicharkova and S. Tomanek report: "More for the Consumer Basket and Also for the Conversion"]

[Text] Bratislava— At yesterday's curtailed meeting, the Slovak Government was prepared to discuss 21 items. It discussed and approved 15 of them, among other things, the Federal Assembly bill on the sustenance minimum, the supervisory report on the conversion of the arms production in Slovakia, and the proposal for establishing the Transgas joint stock company (we are providing more details on this in another article).

The sustenance minimum will be the basis for determining the minimum wage, pensions, the limits to when a person will qualify for social assistance, minimum unemployment allowances, minimum alimony, and other allowances for citizens. According to Helena Wolekova, minister of labor and social affairs, the bill anticipates that to sustain and to meet the basic needs of an adult, or a child under 15, the required sum will be 1,200 korunas and, for a person 15 to 26 years old and without a means of subsistence, it will be 1,300 korunas, plus 500 to 800 korunas for necessary household expenses. As soon as the cost of living rises more than 10 percent, the sustenance minimum will be readjusted.

The most active participant at yesterday's meeting was Economics Minister Jozef Belcak, who presented six important documents, one of which was not on the original agenda. The first was the draft for the basic principles of the law on the utilization of nuclear energy and the draft law on the state supervision over nuclear safety. The government agreed with the comments pertaining to the draft principles of the Federal Assembly law on the [copyright] protection of the topography of semiconductor products. This law should establish legislative prerequisites for the protection of industrial property from unauthorized copying of topographies and trading in semiconductors. The government agreed with the opinion that the development of automobile production in the Slovak Republic must be regarded as a decisive structural change in the Slovak engineering industry.

In connection with the conversion of arms production, the Slovak Government presented to the Federal Ministry of the Economy 65 selected projects by Slovak enterprises that will be included in the competition for financial support from the CSFR state budget. It is anticipated that these projects will require subsidies amounting to 1.6 billion korunas this year alone, but federal bodies have released only 1.5 billion korunas for the entire CSFR. Minister Belcak recalled that conversion in the Slovak Republic will require 15 to 16 billion korunas in the years to come.

At the traditional briefing, Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky said that the Federal Assembly law on the sustenance minimum will define the approximate limits of the sustenance minimum, yet this law has no direct impact on the payment of any allowances.

However, on the basis of this law, other legal provisions will be passed, above all, government regulations pertaining to the minimum wage or welfare allowances. The sustenance minimum is derived from the sum of two figures—the cost of living for a single person and household expenses.

Since Jan Carnogursky is not only the prime minister but also the Christian Democratic Movement chairman, he could not avoid answering journalists' questions about the proposal made by Jan Klepac, Slovak National Council deputy chairman from the Christian Democratic Movement, to draft a law on the Home Guard.

"I believe that the significance of this proposal is overly dramatized," said the prime minister. "Another thing is that Mr. Klepac, without consulting the movement and, maybe, even without seriously considering the reaction to his proposal, has presented it. Basically, the issue is to secure the territorial defense of the state. It has been established in many countries, and it is usually organized on the principle that we can call a home guard principle. For example, in the United States, it is the National Guard that exists as an armed force along with the army." He further stated that the system of Slovak territorial defense was discussed in the Christian Democratic Movement only in a general and peripheral way.

In this connection—according to some dailies—there is also the problem that the Democratic Party is receiving unexpected blows from coalition partners. Apart from the fact that its proposal to declare the date of 29 August a Slovak Republic national holiday, and apart from its disputes over the aforementioned home guard, there are other problems that have been raised at coalition talks without prior consultation. Jan Carnogursky said on this subject: "I admit that these are cosmetic flaws in the coalition."

Meciar Comments on Political, Election Strategy

LD1707224391 Bratislava Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Slovak 1716 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] The Slovak National Council spring session ended yesterday. Among its typical features were many turning points that took place on the Slovak political scene. The Slovak National Council Presidium decided to make changes in the cabinet; a new opposition has been formed, influenced primarily by the breakup of the Public Against Violence movement and by the rise of its opposition wing, Movement for Democratic Slovakia.

Radiojournal has decided to present to you in the coming days interviews with leading representatives of all legislative parties and movements focused on their view of events in our country and on the prospects for political development.

Today, Ludmila Bulakova and Alena Mihalicova spoke to Vladimir Meciar, the chairman of the strongest opposition movement, the Movement for Democratic Slovakia:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Chairman, I agree that the coming period is exceptionally important for Slovakia. It is a period for winning public opinion and the trust of citizens as voters in favor of a certain party or movement. I even admit that truth, conceptions, and promises can be once again manipulated in the elections struggle. But how can you make sure that your movement will avoid the use of these dirty methods, as it were?

[Meciar] Why make promises? Time will tell. Furthermore, as far as citizens are concerned, they are in a better situation nowadays than in June of last year when they went to the elections. They have gotten to know people, and they know what to expect from a particular person. Why, we have all behaved in one way or another, and all of us have had the opportunity to show what we are, what we think, and how we work. In other words, nowadays citizens can work while knowing people, as well as knowing their attitudes. If someone labels himself with some kind of a protective, interesting label, everyone will understand that it is mere expediency. As for the culture of political struggle, one must allow for the fact that the criteria will no longer be how loud people talk, but how they work. Citizens have had enough of political nonsense, slanders, and untruths.

We are, and I personally am too, the most frequent target of attack, and we all know why—because everybody is afraid of our links with the citizens, afraid that we can win support and win the elections. But this is not how politics is conducted. The will of citizens cannot be corrupted by false information, it cannot be swayed by deceit or by developing some kind of propaganda that goes against the principles of decency.

[Correspondent] Are you also working on the basis that you are in the lead in the polls of political parties and movements?

[Meciar] These polls always have a temporal limit. It is good that citizens trust us. They started trusting us from the moment we were established. True, we were established as a protest against what the citizens did not want. So we were born out of spite, out of civic spite. It is on this civic spite that we also want to develop civic interest. But to head the popularity polls, we must try daily, by our work, by our own lives. People must feel that we are theirs, that we belong to them and that we do what they consider right. If this is not the case, no poll will help us.

[Correspondent] The opponents of your movement often attack you also because, allegedly, former Communists join your movement. I know that you cannot know the composition of your membership base, but I would be interested to know how things stand with the former Communists in the political board?

[Meciar] As for the political board, the former members of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia are only those who left the party in 1970 and 1969. There are no others. On the contrary, there are many nonparty members. The same thing is also valid for political representation. But let us ask the question in a different way.

The Communists received 34 percent of the votes in the general elections. The trend for social discontent that objectively favors their program, as well as their position and the behavior of coalition parties in the government coalition, are also playing into their hands. In this situation, the Movement for Democratic Slovakia is placed between the communist direction, that is the Party of Democratic Left and others, and the Christian Democrats. It is logical that it must create a broad social center to win over support, and thus, in fact, even eliminate the votes of the Party of Democratic Left. If this does not happen, the above may become the strongest party after the elections. So our role is not correction, but essentially, drawing votes to us. That is why the policy [word indistinct] must be along these lines. Let us say further: We took over society in a certain state after 1989. You cannot change people. They are the same as they were; they are where they used to be. One has to work with real citizens. One has to set out a certain dividing line between those we do not accept and those we must accept because we cannot do without them, regardless of their party past. The Communist Party had 1,700 people, if you include family members—where can you discriminate?

On the other hand, one also has to say that many are finding themselves in the position of a person who leaves one bank and is swimming to the other bank. He swims on his own in water in which he can drown. If they do not accept him at the other bank, he will return. Contrary to this, the politics of suppressing the members of the party, aggression against them, incorrect behavior, forces them to such defensive reactions that there is nothing else they can do and have no other alternatives but to group themselves together. So we present an alternative for democratically-thinking citizens who think about the future of Slovakia, who have not stained and flawed the past. They are people with whom we want to work.

After a while, I guess, we will stop asking: Where were you? We will ask: What do you do now? What can you offer? What do you know?

[Correspondent] You mentioned that the Movement for Democratic Slovakia has recently been a target for attack by almost all political forces, from the castle to the individual political parties. But when you claim that they all, or almost all, stood against you, would you admit a least a grain of truth in their arguments?

[Meciar] No, if the arguments are topical, I am willing to discuss them. But who will I conduct talks with on national socialism? Who will I talk with on post-communism? Who will I talk with about representatives who are secret police members or KGB officials? Who will I talk with about the attempts to claim that we are decayed, immoral people and so on? I am not willing to talk about this with anyone. It is rude demagogy, lies and slander. How can I accept the argument that says that

because the Movement for Democratic Slovakia has Meciar, and he is a distinct village type, that a village type signifies fascism? How can I accept the argument that says we want to break the state apart when we are seeking ways out of every situation in a constructive program? How can I accept arguments saying that if the Movement for Democratic Slovakia wins, the Slovaks may declare a Slovak state? These are not arguments. It is pressure, psychosis, a total lack of thought. Maybe somewhere in Bohemia they will buy it, a little bit less in Moravia, but they should not in Slovakia at all. There are enough uncouth, slanderous things in these campaigns, enough untruths; there is so much of it that we don't even have time to register it.

All this stems from fear. First, unwillingess to conduct an equal debate. Second, fear that Slovak unity might be created. Third, that Slovak unity will be tied to the Movement for Democratic Slovakia and the people who are in it. But I do not rely on how they are going to judge me in Bohemia. I am asking how citizens of Slovakia will assess us, how they will accept us. I will be grateful to them. If they do not accept us, I will be asking where we went wrong. [end recording]

Carnogursky Responds to Criticism From Own Ranks

AU1807161091 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 12 Jul 91 p 1

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky by Marta Ruzickova; place and date not given: "What Is the Lonely Critic Setting Up?"—first paragraph is SLOVENSKY DENNIK introduction]

[Text] The most recent issue of SLOBODNY PIATOK carries an interview [reprinted in NARODNA OBRODA] with Tibor Boehm, LL.D., member of the Christian Democratic Movement Council, who commented on the movement and specifically on its chairman, Jan Carnogursky. In the interview, he describes J. Carnogursky's stance on the constitutional arrangement as elastic, says that Carnogursky is creating a situation in favor of the federalists, and says that the positions, which the Christian Democratic Movement chairman often changes, are formulated in an unclear and clouded manner. What is Jan Carnogursky's reaction?

[Carnogursky] My stance has been demonstrably constant over the past few years. I will only comment on the constitutional arrangement for Slovakia, although it could be applied to other spheres as well. Prior to the revolution, Eva Kanturkova did an interview with me for a samizdat magazine, ALTERNATIVA, in which I stated at that time that I already imagined Czechoslovakia to be a part of the forthcoming wider constellation of nations and states in this part of Europe. It was in about April of last year that TVORBA published an interview with me—I was deputy prime minister of the Federal Government then—and again I explained that I imagined Slovakia to be a specific part of European integration in the future. I still subscribe to this idea today. I do not know any other politician in Slovakia who could prove such consistency in his idea of the constitutional arrangement for Slovakia. The claim that I keep changing my stance and line does not hold. On the other hand, it must be admitted that none of the politicians in the CSFR, and not only in the CSFR, could have predicted the developments in this part of the world—not only in Slovakia and Czechoslovakia—precisely enough. From this point of view, it is a good idea to keep open the possibility of adapting the realization of the idea to concrete conditions, while further specifying one's ideas for the constitutional arrangement of Slovakia, for instance. Thus, for example, the Christian Democratic Movement and I have further developed our idea of the status of Slovakia by signing a state treaty. This idea was also realized.

[Ruzickova] Nonetheless, Dr. Boehm claims that you are creating a situation in favor of the federalists.

[Carnogursky] As I am aware of the situation in the country, as well as of the international situation, I know that Slovakia can attain the realization of its idea of the constitutional arrangement—let us say, as an independent entity in an integrated Europe—much more easily if it proceeded in agreement with the Czech Republic and the federal bodies, than if it proceeded against them. Therefore, I am trying to formulate my goals, the goals of the movement and of Slovakia, so as to remain acceptable to the federal bodies and the Czech Republic, because otherwise no agreement could be reached, and we simply would not reach these goals. The example of Yugoslavia shows how Europe does not want to accept a division of existing states, and how risky it is to use strong words. The obvious consequence is civil war. I believe that the Christian Democratic Movement line does not give rise to any danger of a civil war or of Slovakia's isolation, and it provides Slovakia with medium-term prospects of reaching absolute equality with other European nations and countries.

[Ruzickova] However, the author of the statements aimed against you is a member of the Christian Democratic Movement Council....

[Carnogursky] Dr. Boehm was elected a member of the council, but he repeatedly and strongly criticized the leadership of the movement and myself. Nevertheless, he never succeeded with his criticism and remained alone. I consider it a sign of disloyalty to the Christian Democratic Movement on his part that, as he could not get anywhere with his criticism within the movement—although he had every opportunity—he goes public and in so doing, raises doubts in the public mind about the unity of the movement.

New Slovak Party on Independence, Elections

LD1707022791 Prague CTK in English 1309 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Bratislava July 16 (CTK)—Representatives of the National Slovak Unification Party (SNZS) told journalists today that in their view an independent Slovakia could be a neutral state.

SNZS preparatory committee chairman Jan Veselovsky presented the new party as another one seeking independence for Slovakia, the smaller of Czechoslovakia's two republics. The party, registered on May 28, 1991, says it has about 5,000 members.

According to Veselovsky, no crucial legislation, including the Constitution, should be approved until a new parliament is elected. "Much has changed since the June 1990 parliamentary elections and the present deputies no longer actually represent the will of their electorate", Veselovsky said.

SNZS plans to discuss its economic and social programme at its first congress in September.

The largest grouping supporting Slovak independence is the 300-member federal parliament. [sentence as received]

SNZS representatives said the party wants good, friendly relations and cooperation with the Czech nation. They say it has supporters among ethnic Hungarians, Ruthenians and Ukrainians in Slovakia and has established contacts with organisations of Slovaks abroad, e.g. Canada, the United States and Australia, as well as Slovaks in Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Commentary Assesses Developments in Slovakia

AU1807111791 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 17 Jul 91 p 3

[Igor Cibula commentary: "A More Level-Headed Perspective Would Be Appropriate"]

[Text] A week ago LIDOVE NOVINY published the view that "what is taking place in our country is an attempt to restore communist Slovakia by means of its secession from overly-capitalist Bohemia." Since this serious characterization of the situation in Slovakia was published by the influential Prague daily, it could not remain unnoticed in Slovakia. In an interview for the SLOVAK PRESS SERVICE [private news agency founded and run by NARODNA OBRODA editor Igor Cibula] Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky said in this connection that it seems to him "rather characteristic that, under the communist regime, official propaganda used to label every process of self-identification in Slovakia as fascism, clerico-fascism, and so forth. If now this very same process were to be labelled as veering toward communism, it would really be thought-provoking." Therefore, Carnogursky's response to the above quote is not only negative, but at the same time, it calls for a more judicious assessment of current developments in Slovakia.

In this context, a visible signal for Prague was the reception of Frantisek Cuba, chairman of the DAK MOVA Bratislava cooperative [the new name of the Slusovice cooperative following its registration in Slovakia] by Slovak Prime Minister Carnogursky. This reception was more than a protocol gesture vis-a-vis the "champion of old structures," as some Prague officials view this successful entrepreneur of international stature who started his career under the former communist regime. Some circles consider the Christian Democratic prime minister to be a conservative politician, but when it comes to Slovakia's interests, he does not suffer from conservative ideological bias. This has to do with his realistic view of the problems of society and the prospects of their solution.

Carnogursky also demonstrated his level-headed perspective in the above-mentioned interview for the Slovak Press Service when he stressed that "politically, the social base for a social market economy may even be stronger in Slovakia [than in the Czech Republic]." According to his words, "it seems that what prevails in Bohemia is a market economy characterized by the monetarist policy of Minister Klaus. This gives rise to the optical impression of greater collectivism in Slovakia." In this connection, it would be interesting to ask to what degree Carnogursky's assessment conforms with the opinion of his coalition partners in the Slovak Government.

The obvious drifting of Slovak politics away from the orientation of the Prague political center was apparent even during the period of disputes over the power-sharing bill when then Prime Minister Meciar categorically pushed for equal partnership of the Slovak Republic with the Czech Republic. Even after Meciar's departure from the post of Slovak prime minister, Meciar's Prague critics have not realized that under conditions of democracy Slovakia independently articulates its interests. This is perhaps why they are susceptible to accepting deformed assessments of current developments on the Slovak political scene.

Federal Assembly Approves Referendum Bill

LD1807204591 Prague CTK in English 1745 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Prague July 18 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) today approved a constitutional referendum bill in the second round of voting.

During the first round the bill was rejected by the Slovak part of one of the two parliament chambers, the House of Nations. The main reason for the rejection is believed to have been the amendment to the bill on the manner of settling property issues between the Czech and Slovak republics in the event of a break-up of the federation. Later the deputies settled the property issue and the bill was passed.

xxx

The referendum law was first proposed in a speech by Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel on December 10, 1990, during the controversy surrounding a constitutional bill on power-sharing between the federation, and the Czech and Slovak republics.

SNS Opposes Referendum, Seeks New Government

AU1907104591 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 17 Jul 91 p 2

[CTK report: "A New Government in the Fall?"]

[Text] Prague— The Slovak National Party [SNS] is vigorously opposed to the adoption by the Federal Assembly of the Constitutional Law on the National Referendum. It objects that the referendum law can only be passed by the national councils and promulgated by their presidiums. At yesterday's news conference, held untraditionally in Prague, SNS Central Secretary Jozef Matula assured journalists that deputies for the SNS are capable of consensus and that they are ready to achieve their goal—the independence of Slovakia—step by step. When asked to decide between a federation and a confederation, they will vote for a confederation. When the options are either a confederation or separation, they will obviously opt for separation. J. Matula described it as a European rarity that the two strongest parties in Slovakia—the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia and the SNS—are in opposition. V. Miskovsky added: "Why should we not have a new government in the fall, the third government since the elections?" He pointed out that whereas "Czechs are looking forward to Germanization," the Slovaks want to take advantage of their advantageous geographical position and orient themselves more toward France or Scandinavia.

Assembly Postpones Screening of Journalists

LD1807213191 Prague CTK in English 1950 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Prague July 18 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) today rejected a resolution based on a petition of 98 members of the Czechoslovak mass media who called for the screening of journalists before a law on the screening process is adopted.

Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa recommended to postpone discussions on amendments to the law on small-scale privatisation as the government has so far been unable to deal with them. Calfa said the economics ministers believe the amendments would fundamentally change the concept of the small privatisation law. The issue was put off until the 17th parliament session in September.

Agreement Reached on Loans With EC Bank

LD1707041591 Prague CTK in English 1637 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Prague July 16 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus today signed a general agreement with the European Investment Bank (EIB) on providing loans to Czechoslovakia.

The signing followed the bank's decision on April 18 to grant Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania 700 million ECUs (about 1,000 million USD) in loans through 1992.

Klaus told reporters that the general agreement will lead to agreements between the EIB and individual Czechoslovak enterprises, with government guarantees. He said Czechoslovakia's share in the loans available will depend on how quickly individual projects can be submitted. "If we have more projects ready than Romania, we'll get more loans, and vice versa".

The majority of the loans will go to enterprises in the public sector, particularly in transport, communications and energy production. The first loans will be received by the end of this year and will have to be paid back in 10-15 years, depending on the project.

The Luxembourg-based EIB is the second largest lending bank in the world. Set up by the European community, it is an autonomous, non-profit institution which finances projects in the developing world as well as within the EC.

Army Official on Research, Weapons Development

AU1807123291 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 16 Jul 91 p 2

[Interview with Major General Engineer Oldrich Barak, candidate of sciences, head of the Czechoslovak Army Armaments and Technology Procurement Administration, by Roman Krasnicky; place and date not given: "Tanks No, Machine Guns Yes"]

[Text] [Krasnicky] How many people work in military research, and how are you funded?

[Barak] At present, we have approximately 2,000 employees, but we are gradually reducing the number. Our budget equals 2 percent of the total army budget for 1991 (the Army received 26.5 billion korunas this year, editorial note).

[Krasnicky] Does military research still have any meaning in a time of pan-European cooperation and cuts in the number of our troops?

[Barak] Do not forget that military research does not have to be followed by production. However, the Army has to be informed on the achievements in world technology and be ready for modernization. Often, some stimulus suffices that provides the research scientist with information regarding the direction of developments abroad in certain areas of arms and technology. If our new military doctrine speaks of defense, we must have a certain research basis for that purpose. Of course, we are reducing the staff in unpromising areas in which production is not expected—tanks, for instance.

[Krasnicky] You spoke of searching for stimuli. Does this mean that some staff are not only involved in laboratory research?

[Barak] This type of work is certainly done, and it is a very important source of information. However, it must be assessed, and some principles must even be verified in

the laboratory. Our work also has significance in potential arms purchases—the advertising material of foreign arms dealers often include real blunders.

[Krasnicky] It is generally claimed that tanks have no future. How about light arms, then? Are you working to perfect them to the point that they would again become as excellent a commercial product as they were in the past?

[Barak] We are concluding the development of weapons with very good technical specifications, with a commercial potential. One can use the same parts, made of light plastic material, for both the submachine and the machine guns. We have developed a simulator for these arms that does not require ammunition for practice. Whether this arms system will make it in the world depends on the manufacturer's selling abilities.

Klaus: No 'Real Reform' of Agriculture Yet

AU1807123491 Prague CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 15 Jul 91 p 2

["JT"-signed report: "The Reform in Agriculture Has Not Begun"]

[Text] Trutnov—Toward the end of last week, Vaclav Klaus, federal minister of finance and Civic Democratic Party chairman, visited Trutnov. During yesterday's meeting with the citizens, he was asked, among others things, questions concerning agriculture and the Czech Ministry of Agriculture. V. Klaus replied, in essence, as follows: "I must admit that we have underestimated agriculture and have neglected it somewhat for too long. In recent weeks, however, we have been intensely active in this sphere, and are in the process of preparing a major document with numerous proposals aimed at the implementation of economic reform in agriculture. It has not begun yet. Lack of policy predominates here; measures are dropped without replacements being found, and subsidies are used to preserve the old rather than to support the positive, the good. We are deeply dissatisfied with the work of the Czech Agriculture Ministry. Agriculture has retained the old production structure, and there is a threat of tremendous surpluses of practically everything. In the past, we lived in a situation in which production was insufficient; now we have infinite quantities of goods, and no place to store, export, or sell them. The reason for it all is the fact that the real reform of agriculture has not yet begun."

Arms Conversion Discussed With U.S. Official

LD1707173291 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Czech 1200 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] Today Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky, received Donald Atwood, U.S. deputy secretary of defense. During the meeting, the guest said, among other things, that according to a decision by President George Bush, some embargos on imports of certain technologies applicable to the arms industry have been relaxed for Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary. Lubos Dobrovsky described this as very hopeful because imports of certain technologies should enable the speedier conversion of production in our arms production plants.

In an interview with CTK correspondents and OBRANA LIDU, Minister Dobrovsky went on to emphasize that he rejects the questions voiced by some politicians or plant representatives concerning the government's management of the conversion. He noted that the only thing the government can do is to lay down conditions for the conversion, but it is up to the plant managers to submit plans that will attract managers from advanced countries. Lubos Dobrovsky said that there are good prospects for the production of small arms, as well as some aviation industry and military electronics products.

Calfa on Repaying Debt Owed to Former GDR

AU1707111991 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 13 Jul 91 p 1

[Interview with Federal Prime Minister Marian Calfa by a "(ZJ)"-signed reporter; place and date not given: "Will We Pay in Marks?"]

[Text] [MLADA FRONTA DNES] The German Finance Ministry issued a statement this week, according to which Czechoslovakia owes Germany 1.59 billion German marks from the period when the GDR still existed. Apparently, negotiations have been held between Prague and Bonn on repaying this sum. What is your cabinet's point of view regarding this statement?

[Calfa] First and foremost, we cannot be at all surprised that such a statement has been issued. The German Government has been saddled with the economy of the former GDR, and it is in a difficult situation. In comparison with the other former socialist countries, the GDR's situation was the best. However, we have to understand the word best in quotation marks. Of course, it was clear immediately after Germany's reunification that the impact would be felt in both economies. We advised Bonn of this during my talks with the German chancellor last fall. The chancellor told me it was not worth putting a figure to the damage immediately, but that it would be better to wait until the end of the financial year—that is, until this year. I admit that the above-mentioned statement surprised us a little. First of all, I have no idea how the German experts arrived at this figure; we are trying to ascertain this now. A specific negotiating position regarding the obvious claims that the Czechoslovak side will raise is apparent here. At the moment, I do not feel it is necessary to fundamentally respond to this statement. We are working on an evaluation, and we will ask for detailed information. However, if we want to act like a law-governed state, and it is ascertained that these claims are justified, then I think we will have to accept them. Of course, we will naturally insist that our obvious claims are the subject of mutual calculation involving both states.

Trade Union Official Views New Trade Union Law

AU1807091391 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 16 Jul 91 p 5

[Unattributed interview with Laszlo Sandor, deputy chairman of the National Federation of Hungarian Trade Unions; place and date not given: "The MSZOSZ Will File a Petition"—first paragraph is MAGYAR HIRLAP introduction]

[Text] "State and trade union property was already separated two years ago, when our right to control holiday properties was changed to a right to use them. However, the state does not have any money at all in the 4.7 billion forint assets of the National Council of Trade Unions [SZOT], and this sum can only be divided up in proportion to the membership."—said Laszlo Sandor, with whom we prepared this interview:

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] What do you think about the passing of the trade union law?

[Sandor] We will turn to the Constitutional Court, because this law not only violates international conventions, but also contravenes several paragraphs of our Constitution, for example the inviolability of property, the right to unite, a paragraph of the Code of Civil Procedure, and expropriation without compensation, and it discriminates between organizations.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] What do you think of the accusations voiced during the legislative debate?

[Sandor] We never denied the fact that, in the old regime, the SZOT was only partly able to fulfill its role as a protector of interests in the classical sense. The party's influence prevailed, its operation, was directed from above, and the SZOT was a tool of party politics. However, talking about the peaceful transition of our society, we can say that the SZOT also played its part because it already started to change in 1988. It became independent of the party, established an alliance system, and since then, it has regarded the protection and representation of interests as its sole function.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] It appears that, up to now, the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] has allowed the National Federation of Hungarian Trade Unions [MSZOSZ] to function, but now the MDF seems to be exercising the politics of divide and rule....

[Sandor] Our federation has not received any sympathy from the government since its foundation. We have been operating under strong political pressure. Since we were established, our legitimacy and right to exist have been questioned. Then, at the end of 1990, the authorities also tried to impair our position by taxing our membership fees. However, as nothing produced any results, our strike call proved to be a good occasion for the government to begin a decisive showdown. The new law is also a result of this. Nevertheless, this is a completely understandable process, because in spite of all the slogans, strong trade unions are not what is required either for privatization or restructuring, or for the continuous reduction of real wages or the maintenance of high inflation. Rather, what is needed are trade unions that are faithful to the government, that support the government's reasoning, even during a strike call.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] What is your opinion about the fact that in the Assembly, the Hungarian Socialist Party faction fully supported the MSZOSZ?

[Sandor] I do not find anything unusual in the fact that a large trade union federation decided only to represent and protect interests. This means that this federation committed itself to representing our society's great problems. We can only welcome the fact that a left-wing party supports this in the Assembly. This does not put the trade union under the influence of that party.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Are you not worried that the MSZP will submit a bill on this?

[Sandor] It is very early still to talk about submitting bills to anyone. All that is happening is that a trade union is raising its voice in the lawful interest of employees and is organizing action, and a party is supporting this. There are examples of this in the Western democracies, too. At the moment, there is no danger of our coming under the influence of any parties. Neither side wants this. All we want is fair cooperation.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] With the MSZP?

[Sandor] The MSZP is a party that operates according to the Constitution. However, we will be only too happy to cooperate if any other parties undertake to represent the interests of the employees.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Will the trade union law and the circumstances in which it was created impede the representation of interests?

[Sandor] I do not think people need to have any political sensitivity to realize that the dismembering of strong interest representation groups is on the agenda today. The intentions have become clear in this often useless debate. Therefore, I hope that people's sense of danger will not only manifest itself in protests but will also result in a stronger cooperation.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] The MSZOSZ has also been accused of using its property to maintain its huge apparatus because the MSZOSZ can no longer support itself from its membership fees.

[Sandor] We do not have any secrets, and this is also known by all those people who continue to state the most impossible things. No sale of our assets took place, apart from the amounts we secured to ensure the operating conditions of the Democratic League of Independent Trade Unions, the workers councils, and other new trade unions, on the basis of a joint decision.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] If preservation of the property is not the issue, then what do you call your intention to set up a bank?

[Sandor] One year ago, we publicly stressed that we intended to use the property in such a way that would directly benefit our membership. A trade union bank and insurance company can handle membership fees and the loans granted, it can provide preferential health and accident insurance, and it can help the membership with other financial services. In addition, our assets can be combined with considerable foreign capital, and no modern trade union can do without this kind of financial basis. All this is hindered by those organizations that talk about the sale, the preservation, and the alienation of property, organizations to which only 5 percent of this property is due on the basis of their membership, but which would like to have 25 percent and attempt to acquire this amount even by state intervention.

[MAGYAR HIRLAP] Will the MSZOSZ be able to keep its membership and its strength and to prove this at the elections?

[Sandor] In March 1990, Hungarian politicians considered our society to be grown up. I think that Hungarian employees are also adults, and I am certain that they will give their votes to the interest-representing group that provides the most for them, namely the MSZOSZ member organizations.

Deputy Speaker Assesses Antall-Goncz Differences

AU1807110791 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 15 Jul 91 p 5

[Interview with Matyas Szuros, deputy speaker of Hungary's National Assembly, by Bela Tarkanyi in Balmazujvaros on 13 July: "Szuros Believes in Growing Power Struggle Between Goncz and Antall"—first two paragraphs are NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Excerpts] Members of the legislative faction and national presidium of the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP], and leaders of local MSZP branches, went on a harvesting tour in six counties on 13 July; they visited Bacs-Kiskun, Bekes, Csongrad, Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok, Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, and Hajdu-Bihar counties. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent interviewed Matyas Szuros:

[Tarkanyi] How do you react to the fact that the president of the Republic chose not to sign the prime minister's proposal on the nomination of the deputy chairmen of Hungarian Radio and MTV?

[Szuros] I think that it is extremely unfortunate that tension has reappeared in the relations between the president and the prime minister of the Republic; this is an undesirable phenomenon in our democratic transition. It is particularly surprising that President Arpad Goncz chose not to sign the nomination proposal, because in his explanation, Goncz stated that the prime minister's proposal had been both formally and legally correct. I do not think that it is the president's role to judge whether or not a document is politically acceptable. I think that the nomination of the deputy chairmen of Hungarian Radio and MTV has led to a reappearance of the competence dispute and the power struggle between President Arpad Goncz and Prime Minister Jozsef Antall. From democracy's and Hungary's point of view, it would be better if our two highest public dignitaries could cooperate and stand together on important issues. [passage omitted]

SZDSZ Chairman on Party Coordination Talks

AU1807143391 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Jul 91 pp 1, 7

[Interview with SZDSZ Chairman Janos Kis by Lajos Pogonyi; place and date not given: "Only a New Coalition Formula Could Help"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Pogonyi] Has the time come for a coalition between the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], the Christian Democratic People's Party, the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], and the Federation of Young Democrats?

[Kis] We should consider several interim or long-term government solutions. In fact, something we need to do to realize is that maintaining the coalition is not the only solution. A broad four-party coalition is a possible variant, but it is not the only one.

[Pogonyi] What other variants could there be?

[Kis] For the sake of argument, I could imagine a minority government.

[Pogonyi] The current largest governing party would have to make an enormous number of compromises in that case.

[Kis] Every solution requires a compromise on their part [the MDF]. However, these deals should not be made with a party that chased them into the compensation issue [the Independent Smallholders' Party]; they should be made with parties that look toward the future rather than the past, parties that deal with the recovery of Hungary's economy rather than the crushing of Hungary's agriculture.

[Pogonyi] Since we are talking about political stalemates: The six-party coordination talks have been smothered....

[Kis] To be honest, right from the start, we thought that the leading governing party would only be willing to negotiate seriously if it realized that the coalition was untenable. As long as the MDF bases itself on the fact that the coalition is tenable, and as long as it does its best to maintain this coalition, it is not in the MDF's interest to hold serious negotiations with the opposition or to

make political concessions in return for political support. We have not concealed our opinion on this. Nevertheless, we stated that we were willing to talk about anything that all sides were prepared to reach a feasible and binding agreement on. It is not our fault if there is nothing to talk about.

[Pogonyi] How much further can local governments be "stripped" without gradually causing uncontrollable social conflicts?

[Kis] The situation is made particularly difficult by the fact that we are threatened with a 94 billion forint budget deficit next year. That sum does not even include Bos-Nagymaros expenses, World Expo expenses, central wage measures, the cost of modernizing civil service payment tables, or the deficit of the solidarity fund—not to mention the compensation law or the expenses related to the return of church property. According to the Finance Ministry, we will be able to compensate for a 50 billion forint deficit through internal and external resources. In other words, we are facing extreme budget restrictions, and these restrictions will also have an effect on social services. The government will spend less on social services, and at the same time, local governments will be impoverished. Yet local governments are the primary non-governmental channel for social security funding, they give special benefits, they organize communal work, they support some of our health institutions, they operate social homes, and they are responsible for a large number of our schools. [passage omitted]

Industry Ministry Official on Bos-Nagymaros Talks

AU1807125991 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Jul 91 p 1

["K.J."-signed interview with Arpad Bakay, deputy state secretary in charge of energy affairs at the Ministry of Industry and Trade; place and date not given: "What Did the Hungarian Side Offer?"—first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] The Hungarian offer gave rise to a lot of misunderstanding at the negotiations on the Bos-Nagymaros river barrage. Therefore, we asked Arpad Bakay about this offer:

[Bakay] We asked our CSFR counterparts to agree to cancel our 1977 agreement. If they do that, a financial accounting between the two countries will also have to take place because the CSFR has already built a rather important part of the joint project. We would build a gas-turbine power plant from this debt.

[NEPSZABADSAG] How big would this power plant be, and how much would it cost?

[Bakay] It would be a 250-megawatt power plant that would cover approximately the amount of energy supplied by the Bos-Nagymaros plant for Slovakia, and it would cost 7 billion forints.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Are there any other negotiations under way in energy cooperation?

[Bakay] Both sides took great care to make sure that the debate over Bos-Nagymaros does not disturb other cooperation negotiations. Expert negotiations are under way in connection with the supply of electric energy, and Industry and Trade Minister Akos Peter Bod held talks with his Slovak counterpart, Jan Holcik, on possible cooperation on oil and gas imports. Among other things, they talked about a better utilization of the Adria pipeline. The newly- established CSFR mineral oil transportation, storage, and maintenance company, the Transpetrol, will soon clarify the technical and financial conditions with the Hungarian National Oil and Gas Industry Trust needed for the creation of an international consortium.

Free Democrats Delegation Visit Vojvodina 17 Jul

LD1807203791 Budapest MTI in English 1837 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Budapest, July 18 (MTI)—A three-member delegation from Hungary's Alliance of Free Democrats paid a one-day visit to Vojvodina on Wednesday. They held talks with leading officials from the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Vojvodina (DCHV) and representatives from the democratic parties of the Serbian parliament.

Speaking to journalists in Budapest on Thursday, MP [member of parliament] Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, who was heading the delegation, said that DCHV's leaders described the current situation and the future prospects as alarming. They warned against involving ethnic Hungarians from Vojvodina in the historic dispute of the south Slav peoples on either side. However, in defiance of DCHV's call for withdrawing soldiers and reserves of Hungarian nationality from the critical area, reserves continue to be drafted en masse, hampering efforts to stay out of the crisis.

Leaders of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Vojvodina have the impression that the nationistic trend is rapidly gaining ground in Serbian political life, Istvan Szent-Ivanyi said. At present, three laws lie before the Serbian parliament, the passing of which would heavily curtail the rights of the Hungarian population, namely the act on the use of languages, the reduction of the number of Hungarian schools and the bill on local governments. The DCHV sees the solution of guaranteeing Vojvodina's autonomy and the collective rights of the ethnic minority as an alternative to ethnic integration.

The two latter concepts are also supported by the democratic parties of the Serbian parliament which speak out in favour of DCHV's proposed amendments in the debate over the language act. These parties are also in agreement insofar as Yugoslavia should be transformed along the lines of the European Communities, by ensuring the freedom of organization and the press,

introducing the proportional representation type of election system and recognizing the equality of the various republics, Istvan Szent-Ivanyi told the press on Thursday.

Jeszensky, Quayle Discuss Support, SFRY

LD1807213991 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2000 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] [Announcer] The U.S. vice president received Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky at the White House. Miklos Martin Kovacs reports:

[Kovacs] The United States continues to regard support for Eastern Central- European countries such as Hungary as extraordinarily important, Vice President Dan Quayle said when he received Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky at the White House. Regarding the talks, the minister told Hungarian Radio that he indicated that the Hungarian Government also thinks that the document adopted at the London summit reflects the intentions of the most developed countries and that the support for the Soviet Union does not mean pushing Eastern Central-European democracies into the background.

Geza Jeszenszky also confirmed verbally to the vice president Hungary's opinion on the Yugoslavian crisis, an opinion that was also sent to President Bush earlier. In his brief interview following the talks, the Hungarian foreign minister called astounding the Belgrade press accusations that regard certain statements of Hungarian politicians as territorial claims. He said they agreed with Vice President Quayle that, in a critical situation like this, seeking an enemy image and a scapegoat is frequent, and there are probably signs of this in Yugoslavia as well.

Geza Jeszenszky will also meet Eagleburger, deputy secretary of state, and Defense Secretary Cheney in Washington.

Progress on Arms Agreement Implementation Reported

AU1907080891 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Jul 91 p 3

[Interview with Colonel Laszlo Forgacs, commander of the Disarmament Information and Supervision Center of the Hungarian Army, by Andras Desi; place and date not given: "Soldiers Understand Each Other Better Than the Politicians—Information and Supervision Center to Strengthen Confidence"—first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] "The joint test supervisions carried out in recent months with the British, Belgian, and French Armies prove the openness of the Hungarian military policy, as well as the extent to which the stipulations of the conventional arms reduction agreement signed in Paris in November 1990 can be implemented in everyday life"—Laszlo Forgacs said in his interview to NEPSZABADSAG.

[Desi] Mr. Forgacs! How did this organization emerge?

[Forgacs] Our fate is closely connected to the conventional arms reduction agreement signed by the heads of 22 states in Paris on 19 November 1990, as well as to the previous confidence-building agreement signed in Stockholm. The foreign and defense ministries' interministerial committee in charge of principled guidance is playing a considerable role in coordinating the activity of the Information and Supervision Center.

We started to organize the Center itself when it became clear that the Paris agreement would eventually be signed. For the first time in the history of the Hungarian Army, we invited tenders and, in addition to military skills and training, high-level knowledge of foreign languages was a primary requirement. We chose 52 people out of more than 200 candidates, but we also employ "external" military experts.

[Desi] Hungary has participated very actively in recent verification tests. What is behind all this? Can this activity be connected with the new defense doctrine?

[Forgacs] There is no direct link between the two. However, I would like to point out that our activity is organically connected with Hungarian foreign policy measures and the diplomatic steps of Hungarian military policy. The Hungarian Government is also aware of the importance of confidence-building measures; therefore, it supports our activity and has guaranteed the financial conditions from the state budget.

In fact, with these test verifications, we wanted to test the theoretical skills of the past period in everyday practice, in other words, to test the way we will carry out "real" verifications if the agreement is ratified this year. In connection with the activity you mentioned above, I think I will not be revealing secret information if I tell you that Hungary is regarded as a preference country, and the building of contacts with the British Army, which is one of our major partners in these test verifications, began in the wake of a political decision. I can also say similar positive things about our cooperation with the French and the Belgians. We soldiers understand each other very well, perhaps sometimes even better than the politicians. Such military cooperation could contribute to the development of the oft-mentioned, all-European way of thinking.

[Desi] The Paris agreement was signed between the six former Warsaw Pact members and 16 NATO member states. So far, the Hungarian Army has only carried out test verifications with NATO armed forces. Can we expect such relations with our former allies in the future, for example between Hungary and the CSFR?

[Forgacs] The passage stipulating that countries within a bloc can also inspect each other was introduced in the Paris agreement at Hungary's initiative. According to the predetermined quota, Hungary can inspect 24 installations in NATO countries and five installations within the "bloc."

Even before signing the agreement, we already contacted our former allies: Together with the CSFR, we inspected a U.S. and a German military base in Germany in February 1990. Negotiations were carried out in Warsaw last week between Poland, the CSFR, and Hungary on setting up mixed supervisory groups and carrying out joint actions. I would like to add that both the British and the French announced that they would welcome the establishment of joint supervisory groups with the Hungarians.

[Desi] What is the situation with the Soviet Union?

[Forgacs] We have not yet made contact with the Soviets, but this has nothing to do with the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the financial accounting involved. As far as I know, the reason for this lack of contact is that the Soviets have not yet organized such an information center.

[Desi] In addition to test verifications, what other tasks is the Hungarian Center carrying out?

[Forgacs] In accordance with the decision of the leadership of the Hungarian Army and the Defense Ministry, in addition to implementing the confidence-building and security-strengthening measures, other international activities that require professional knowledge and the knowledge of languages have also been transferred to us, like the Open-Skies agreement and the training of Hungarian UN observers. We trained the 15 Hungarian "blue-helmet" officers whose five members have already arrived at their destination in Angola.

Impact of G-7 Deal With USSR Assessed

LD1807203191 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Conflicting evaluations can be heard about the London summit. Miklos Martin Kovacs reports:

[Kovacs] The credit possibilities of Hungary are not affected by the fact that, according to the decision of the London summit, the Soviet Union will have a special relationship with the IMF and the World Bank. This is what (Bea Szombati), who works at the Washington center of the IMF as official Hungarian representative, told Hungarian radio. She said that the Soviet Union will really only get advice and technical help from the international credit organizations, for in order to get a loan, it should be a member. To become a member is a long process, and at the moment, the experts do not even know what sort of Soviet Union they should reckon with in the future. For if a few republics become independent, or even if relations between them are changed, the situation will be entirely different then now.

The Hungarian representative also said that the leading body of the IMF is expected to discuss at the end of next month the recent experiences regarding the Hungarian economy. An IMF delegation visited Hungary not long ago, but they are still waiting for additional information, since, for example, they do not know, what sort of effect the new regulation on social security will have on the budget. [passage omitted]

France Gives Assurance on EC Association Support

LD1907031191 Warsaw PAP in English 2112 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Paris, July 18—Poland's negotiator in the Brussels talks on this country's association with the European Community told a press conference here on Thursday [18 July] that French officials assured him of France's firm decision to support Poland's striving to join the EC.

Summing up his two-day visit to Paris Andrzej Olechowski, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations disclosed that the agreement on Poland's association with the EC may be signed next September "if everything goes well."

He said he had come to Paris to express the Polish Government's anxiety about public declarations concerning Poland's future membership of the EC made by French politicians recently. But during the talks here he was assured that France considers the support for Poland's association efforts its moral duty both because of long-time friendship with Poland and as an obligation resulting from the treaty of friendship and solidarity signed by Francois Mitterrand and Lech Walesa last April.

While in Paris, Olechowski held talks with Agriculture Minister Louis Mermoz, Minister for European Affairs Elisabeth Guigou, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade Jean Noel Jeannenay and also Maryse Beaussiere, Prime Minister Edith Cresson's adviser.

Olechowski's Paris talks concerned problems of liberalization of the access of Polish farm produce to the EC markets. Polish and French experts will meet in Paris next week to discuss these issues prior to the meeting of the EC Council of Ministers due in Brussels on July 29.

Labor Minister on Dispute With Trade Unions

LD1807214291 Warsaw PAP in English 2021 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Warsaw, July 18—Following the breakdown on Wednesday [17 July] of talks with the All-Poland Trade Union Alliance (OPZZ), Labour Minister Michal Boni issued a statement defining the Polish Government's position.

"The government side is keen to resolve the dispute as soon as possible," he said. "But we cannot agree to the OPZZ suggestion that the matter should be resolved in 3 days.

"On the subject of pensions, annuities and unemployment benefits, where the initiative for conciliation proceedings comes from the government side, we propose Saturday, July 20 as the starting date for conciliation discussions.

"On the issues of budget payment difficulties and industrial policy, where the initiative for conciliation proceedings comes from OPZZ, the government side awaits further proposals on timing from the unions."

OPZZ Trade Unions Join Democratic Left Bloc

LD1807190291 Warsaw PAP in English 1448 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Warsaw, July 18—The National Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) decided to join the Democratic Left's election bloc, OPZZ leader Alfred Miodowicz announced at a press conference in Warsaw on Thursday [18 July].

"In the election campaign we want to join all forces which declare in their programmes—and we believe they will keep their word—the desire to represent the interests of the workers," Miodowicz explained.

Simultaneously, the OPZZ addressed a letter to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev which reads that political and economic reforms implemented in the Soviet Union and Poland should not be a reason for deterioration of bilateral, neighbourly economic relations. The letter also appeals for restoration of Polish-Soviet barter trade.

OPZZ sent a similar appeal and cooperation offer in a letter to Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki.

Maziarski on Center Accord Election Partners

AU1807165991 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 16 Jul 91 p 2

[Artur Domoslawski article: "The Center Accord's Pre-Election Maneuvering"]

[Text] Who will the Center Accord [PC] go into the elections with? Despite the decision by the "Solidarity" National Commission, it is still counting on an alliance with the trade union. They only like some citizens committees. They reject the Najder and Olszewski "centralist program." The PC might withdraw its ministers from the Bielecki government during the election campaign.

As Jacek Maziarski, head of the PC Main Administration, told us yesterday, the "Solidarity" National Commission's recent decision to enter the elections alone is not, in his opinion, final. "The resolution contains some loosely formulated items and imprecise points. The regions are left with quite a lot of room for maneuver," said Maziarski.

He said that before last Thursday's [11 July] meeting of the national commission some regions had indicated that they wished to form an alliance with the PC. However, he warned that he could not reveal which regions. "They must say so themselves."

"I would not be surprised if the 'Solidarity' National Commission modifies its decision," added Maziarski.

The head of the PC Main Administration did not want to say anything concrete about a coalition with the peasant movement. He only said: "We are holding talks."

At Sunday's [14 July] National Conference of Citizens Committees, the PC rejected the proposal by Zdislaw Najder, chairman of the National Citizens Committee, and Jan Olszewski (who is also a member of the PC's governing bodies) to create a broad coalition that would recreate the camp supporting Lech Walesa in the presidential elections.

"We only want to form an alliance with those committees that think the same way we do. We do not want to enter the elections with committees that support the Christian National Union or the Democratic Union," said Maziarski, commenting on the idea of a broad coalition.

"The conference of committees is a body that has no powers to dictate anything to any of the citizens committees in the regions. The Warsaw bureaucracy has come up with some kind of centralist program in opposition to our program, but the PC and the committees that support us will not subordinate themselves to it. At the palace on Ujazdowskie Avenue, the headquarters of the National Citizens Committee, there is not central body that could direct the committees," said Maziarski.

He noted that the PC had never regarded the National Citizens Committee as a body actively involved in politics: "It is a body with a special status; it is more of an advisory body. Mr. Olszewski, who proposed the broad coalition, will have to decide for himself with whom to enter the elections."

"We are counting on the support of about 70 percent of the local committees. The remaining 30 percent retain an anachronistic character, which could be called that of being an apolitical political party, or support extremist parties and groups, such as the Christian National Union," said Maziarski.

Asked whether the PC would withdraw its ministers from the government in light of the Jaroslaw Kaczynski statement that placed the post-communist forces, the Democratic Union, and the governing liberals in one bloc, Maziarski replied: "Perhaps. The presence of our ministers in the government is uncomfortable for tactical reasons. However, we do not want to do so now to avoid weakening the government and the reform process. However, that might happen if some kind of crisis occurs, if, for example, the government does not make some adjustments to its policies and ends up in a social vacuum."

"Some political groupings," explained Maziarski, "have been engaging in political maneuvering in the Sejm by voting together with post-communists. We are not saying that the Democratic Union and Liberal-Democratic Congress have communist leanings, but through their political conduct, they are forming one bloc with the post-communists and are objectively supporting them."

"Society will view them as coalition partners of the post-communists, and judging by the statements made by the union's leaders, this is causing them grave embarrassment," said the head of the PC Main Administration.

Talks on Peasant Coalition Split Possible

LD1907030491 Warsaw PAP in English 2123 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Warsaw, July 18—The split that occurred in the national electoral committee of the Peasant Movement on Wednesday [17 July] does not exclude the possibility of further negotiations on the future coalition of peasant parties and farmers' organizations, it was disclosed here Thursday.

At a press conference here leader of the Solidarity trade union of private farmers Gabriel Janowski and leader of the Polish Peasant Party Solidarity (PSL-S) Jozef Slisz blamed the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) for breaching the alliance.

"We are still open to cooperation with the PSL bodies in the rural areas," Slisz declared and said he would support all local coalitions established by his organization with PSL.

Also PSL leader Waldemar Pawlak told a separate news conference that his party is also ready to continue negotiations and reach a compromise. The main issue of dispute are PSL electoral committees operating in many provinces. Pawlak said that the PSL leadership will recognize all coalitions established by PSL local organizations throughout Poland.

Slisz who is a senator in the present term announced that he would run again for a senatorial seat in the Rzeszow Province.

Movement Leader Bujak Urges 'Supergovernment'

AU1907103191 Warsaw PAP in English 2131 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Warsaw, July 16—Zbigniew Bujak, leader of the Democratic Social Movement, said here on Tuesday [16 July] that his party intends to form in future a government "composed of the best specialists, stalwart people of great possibilities."

"Our party would give such a government its strong political support born out of social approval of our programme," Bujak declared at a meeting of workers from the Wola district factories.

Bujak, rallying supporters at the start of the general election campaign, claims that "none of the parties existing in Poland is able to form a representative government exclusively of its own people. Those who say otherwise show a lack of responsibility. This would lead

straight to a government of colleagues in which a group of friends would distribute portfolios among themselves," Bujak warned.

"In these difficult, historical moments which determine our existence for the coming decades, Poland needs a supergovernment, formed of first-rate people," Bujak said.

Walesa Views Unemployment Problem

LD1807200491 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1730 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] [Announcer] Representatives of political parties and social organizations have taken part in a referendum devoted to the topic: The State and Unemployment, convened at the initiative of Lech Walesa, who took part in the meeting.

[Begin Walesa recording] The system we have fortunately bidden farewell to maintained that it had a job for everybody. But then what, if no one was unemployed? People pretended to work and the state pretended to pay them. Unemployment existed under communism, but it was hidden unemployment. Fictitious or unproductive work had a demoralizing impact upon employees. We have started to change the economy. A business cannot prosper without an onwer, so now we are reforming the economy to ensure that each enterprise has an owner. Unfortunately, there has been a drop in production, privatization has not proceeded fast enough, and in addition the Soviet Union does not want to purchase from us, while many of our enterprises have been dependent on this market. All these problems contribute to an increase in unemployment. Our state today does not protect people against unemployment efficiently enough. And this is the duty of the state. One must have a wise social policy, so that the law protects those who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. One must privatize and reform in such a way that the number of unemployed is kept as low as possible. And if there are unemployed, we together must find solutions to the issues of what is the responsibility of the state, what others can do, and how to keep unemployment low and not to leave the unemployed alone. Manipulation of social tensions is dangerous for Poland today, as well as lack of understanding. The solution of even the most difficult issues is possible with wide understanding and cooperation. There is no turning back from the reforms. [end recording]

[Announcer] Let me add that the number of unemployed could reach 3 million by the end of the year.

[Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish at 1730 GMT on 18 July repeated: "The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy estimates that there are 1.5 million unemployed and forecasts that the number will grow until the middle of 1992. In June alone, in connection with mass redundancies, almost 140,000 people lost their jobs."]

Nastase, Russia's Kozyrev Hold News Conference

AU1807082591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0718 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 18/7/1991—Victoria Palace was host Wednesday, 17 July, of a news conference of the foreign minister of the Russian Federation, Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev, and his Romanian counterpart, Adrian Nastase.

The head of the Russian diplomacy said he was satisfied with the results of the talks he had had with many dignitaries, including President Ion Iliescu, Premier Petre Roman, the Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, the Minister of Trade and Tourism Constantin Fota, many high executives of a number of ministries in the field of economy and industry. He added that one of the priorities of the government of the Russian Federation was the development and strengthening of relations with Central and East European countries, countries lying in the heart of Europe, Romania among them.

The way we have chosen rules out totalitarianism, it is the way towards the European civilisation, mentioned Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev. For the time being, in our country, like in yours, and unlike in the West, there is not very much to sell in the stores, but I think this is due to the heritage of the past and we shall go beyond these difficult moments. Our political relations will have an ascending course and we have agreed to build them on the basis of mutual respect and on the friendship relations between the Russian and the Romanian peoples. During the visit the president of the Russian Federation is going to pay to Romania this autumn, confirmed during the interview with President Ion Iliescu, a number of documents are expected to be signed, representing the political framework for the new economic relations between the Russian Federation and Romania.

In his turn, the Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase specified that Mr. Kozyrev's visit to Romania was the first visit of a foreign minister of the Russian Federation, and it is the expression of the new political course, i.e. of direct contacts between Romania and one of the Soviet republics. He added that, unlike the relations of Romania with other countries, the juridical framework of which has to be only reshaped, in the case of the relations between the Russian Federation and Romania a vacuum is to be filled, as no juridical framework has existed so far. So far, between Romania and the Soviet Union there have only been relations at a central level. The prerequisite of a direct political contact is the existence of a normative framework. That is why, said the head of the Romanian diplomacy, diplomatic contacts must be developed at the level of the two foreign ministries.

Mr. Adrian Nastase mentioned a number of documents that are going to be signed by the two parties. Thursday, 18 July, a protocol will be signed of consultations between the two foreign ministries, and an economic agreement has been drawn up, that is going to be signed this autumn, on the occasion of the visit [of] the President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin. A cultural agreement is also in view. The juridical framework that is going to be built can also be completed with a declaration on bilateral relations, to be negotiated in the near future, establishing, among others, the areas of mutual interest, as far as economic cooperation is concerned. The visit of the Russian foreign minister to Bucharest is a very useful preamble to the visit the head of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin is going to pay to Romania, said the Romanian foreign minister.

Nastase, Kozyrev End Talks

AU1807132391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1206 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/7/1991—The foreign ministers of Romania and the Russian Federation, Adrian Nastase and, respectively, Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev, conducted a last round of official talks at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters on Thursday morning.

They exchanged opinions on important international issues, especially those related to the development of cooperation on a European plane, in consensus with the provisions of the Paris Charter and the other documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The possibility and usefulness were highlighted of developing a cooperation with beneficial results for both Romania and the Russian Federation.

At the end of their talks, the two ministers signed a protocol on consultations between the Foreign Ministry of Romania and the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation. In his address on the occasion, Adrian Nastase expressed the hope that a bilateral accord in the economic and cultural areas, which is being worked out at present, would be signed during the visit the president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, is to pay to Bucharest this autumn.

In his turn, Kozyrev said the document signed was substantial and opened avenues towards the strengthening of links between the Romanian and Russian Foreign Ministries, all while meeting current European standards and aspirations. The Russian Foreign Ministry also underscored the need for the settlement of all issues through negotiations, which is the duty of diplomats.

Trade Minister Meets Kozyrev

AU1807184491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1739 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/7/1991—Romania's Trade and Tourism Minister Constantin Fota held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The two stated their pleasure over the draft agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the

Republic of Russia on trade and economic relations and their cooperation in science and technology that was initialed by experts and that is expected to be signed in autumn during President Yeltsin's visit to Romania.

The agreement will put a general framework in place for mutual economic exchanges, and technical and scientific cooperation.

On the ways for economic cooperation, the two ministers agreed that an intergovernmental commission ought to be set up.

They also agreed on actions for a better knowledge of the potential for direct contacts between economic agents in Romania and the Russian Federation.

Reaction to Hungary's Accusations at CSCE

AU1907102291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0932 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/7/1991—The accusations brought by the Hungarian delegation against Romania's foreign policy on ethnic minorities only in the closing stage of the CSCE expert meeting on minorities (on 15 July) were "surprising" the Romanian Foreign Ministry spokesman Teodor Melescanu told a weekly news conference yesterday. All the much more is this so as Romania and Hungary had been engaged in dialogue lately, he said.

As far as the substance of the allegations is concerned, he went on, the Romanian delegation at the Geneva meeting gave a full picture of the rights that ethnic minorities enjoy in Romania.

Romania's position, like that of all CSCE countries, is to set European standards for all states to refer their minorities policies. That being so, we do not see why should Hungary be taken as a reference point on minorities issues, when realities in that country and its policy toward the minorities living on its territory does not entitle it to come with solutions.

It is not hard to perceive herein an interest to bring in the discussions on ethnic question, in the wake of developments in Yugoslavia, also questions of Romania's Hungarian minority, even though any linkage on that subject is forced, artificial and tendentious, or to elicit reactions in Romania to Hungary's groundless charges against the Romanian state and people that could fuel commentaries about so-called nationalistic positions at a time of new international openings towards Romania.

Wherefore, we regard the Hungarian delegation's address at the Geneva meeting as a challenge that Romania will not take up.

FSN News Conference on Privatization Bill

AU1807081891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0728 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 18/7/1991—A news conference was held, Wednesday, 17 July, at the FSN [National Salvation Front] headquarters, attended by FSN leaders and journalists. The centrepiece of discussions was the privatisation bill and various aspects of its drawing up.

Adrian Severin, minister assistant to the prime minister for the reform and the liaison with Parliament referred to the objections made by opposition political parties as far as the bill is concerned, and which the government consider ungrounded.

Theodor Stolojan, director of the National Agency for Privatisation, Ion Aurel Stoica, FSN executive chairman, FSN senators and deputies stressed that it was necessary for a privatisation law to be introduced in the present economic mechanism, as a viable solution in the difficult context of today's Romania.

Deputies' Assembly, Senate Sessions Reported

AU1807155591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1440 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/7/1991—Thursday [18 July] morning the Assembly of Deputies resumed session to debate and endorse the commercial companies privatization bill by articles.

Today's session is not attended by the deputies for the National Liberal Party, Peasant Party, the PER (Ecology), the PSDR (Social Democratic), the PUNR (National Unity), the ULB (Bratianu Liberals), the "20 Mai" group, the Traditional Social Democratic Party, part of the MER (Ecologist Movement) and a National Salvation Front deputy.

In the first half of the sitting, debates focused on the second chapter regarding the formation and organization of private property funds. Many deputies took the floor on that topic. Owing to its significance, singling out was an amendment requesting that the ownership certificates to be issued should have an accurate nominal value because only when the citizen is sure he has a document with an intrinsic value he will be affectively attached to it. It was also proposed that the private property funds should be commensurate with the commercial companies' patrimony. Other substantive amendments were made as well as amendments to the drafting of the bill on which the plenum is to state its opinion in a subsequent session.

After the parliamentary group of the National Liberal Party walked out from the Thursday Senate debates on the privatization bill, Senator Kiraly Karoly referred to the stance of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania on that bill.

Expressing regret over the PNL parliamentarians' decision to walk out, the speaker said that normative act should be discussed and voted as "without this law the country will not be able to embark on the road towards the reform and the building of a democratic state of law."

"The bill," Mr. Karoly said, "addresses the 16 million Romanian citizens to benefit from its provisions. That is why the law should facilitate the unity of all Romanians in the settlement of all the major issues related to the Romanian society's transition from communism to democracy."

Mr. Karoly said he had been surprised by Reform Minister Adrian Severin's statement on television the night before considering his had not been the best way to approach issues. "I call on the country's president personally to dismiss the president of the Romanian Radio-Television and the government to dismiss the television director general." The speaker said that that institution's decision to broadcast Senate debates at a late hour was a "defiance".

Government 'Surprised' by Groups' Stance

AU1807201091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1721 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/7/1991—The Government of Romania was surprised by the political stance taken recently by certain parliamentary groups which raised a number of issues concerning the basis for the privatisation bill, government spokesman Mihnea Constantinescu told the weekly news conference on Thursday [18 July].

All the greater is the surprise as the government had been accused previously of dragging its feet in drafting the bill only to see that the parliamentary groups that walked out of the debate were trying to postpone the discussion of this bill introduced by the government to achieve its reform programme and provide the framework for transition to a market economy. The government is disconcerted by the low interest taken in the economic mechanism of the bill and by allegations of attempting "to spoliate the population and affect the national economy".

Iliescu, Party Leaders Discuss Privatization Bill

AU1807200691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1753 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/7/1991—President Ion Iliescu of Romania met on Thursday [18 July] with leaders of the political parties represented in Parliament.

As part of the series of consultations initiated by the president some time ago, today's meeting at Cotroceni concentrated on the refusal of certain political parties and parliamentarians to join in the debate of the privatisation bill.

Solutions were found for Parliament to resume its sittings and proceed with its agenda as a special commission will examine in the days ahead those parts of the bill on which opinions differ.

Iliescu Holds News Conference on Privatization

AU1807200391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1910 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/7/1991—On Thursday [18 July] afternoon Romania's President Ion Iliescu met at the Cotroceni Palace with Romanian journalists and foreign press correspondents.

The president referred to the disputes in Romania's Parliament concerning the privatisation bill which was the main theme of today's meeting at the presidency headquarters with the leaders of parliamentary political formations.

Commenting upon that meeting, Ion Iliescu stated that it had a constructive result, he pledging to look for a conciliatory means between the government and Parliament.

Referring to his tour to Portugal, Morocco, Venezuela and Costa Rica, the president presented certain conclusions derived from his contacts in those countries. He specified that his tour reflected the principles governing Romania's foreign policy, in the plane of bilateral relations, supporting the process of ensuring a politically and economically equal security for all the states on the continent.

Reference was also made to the themes discussed with the NATO general secretary and with the representatives of the U.S. Department of State.

Further, the president referred to Romania's cooperation forms with the states he had visited—Portugal, Morocco, Venezuela, Costa Rica.

The president also approached the antisemitism problem in Romania and its effect on Romania's image in the world.

In connection with a series of articles inserted in the press, Ion Iliescu appreciates that they created a pretext for an anti-Romanian campaign abroad. At the same time he considers as exaggerated the interpretations and appeals abroad in connection with an alleged anti-Semitic campaign in Romania.

The president made an appeal to the instauration of a consensus in the country especially when the nation's superior interests were concerned.

I learnt with displeasure about Mr. Antall's statement on the "so-called" Treaty of Trianon, on the "so-called" Peace Treaty of Paris and on the fact that those treaties set the border between Hungary and Yugoslavia, not Serbia, Ion Iliescu told a news conference at the Presidential Palace on Thursday.

Therefore, if Yugoslavia fell apart, the border issue would be re-opened, the president of Romania said in reference to the situation in the neighbor country. It appears to me that such a statement is dangerous, and unfair, and unfriendly toward a neighbor country. I would not comment any further on the implications of the "so-called" treaty formula: What does that mean? How does such a view of the treaties agree with the international documents that we all adopted in Helsinki and in Paris? It appears to me that it is not only unwelcome, but also dangerous.

The president of Romania wound up his introductory address at the news conference by showing that it is not too late to find a peaceful solution that may reconcile the interests of all conflicting parties in Yugoslavia and assessed as unfair the incitation to dispute.

New Organization To 'Destroy' Political Police

AU1807102291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0737 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 18/7/1991—Seventeen civic committees in Romania merged to form "The Patriot" organisation, the aim of which is to destroy the political police, journalist Sorin Rosca Stanescu from he opposition daily ROMANIA LIBERA told a news conference on Wednesday [17 July] at the head offices of the Association of Romanian Journalists.

The organisation channels to the mass media documents exposing the activities of the political police, he also announced.

"Patriot" acknowledges the place and role espionage, intelligence and anti-terrorism hold in a state of law, but will not tolerate violation of correspondence, tapping of telephone calls for political purposes, infiltration into opposition ranks, pressures by mental or physical terror against opposition leaders.

"Patriot" has set as one of its aims the location and destruction, by legal means and through various actions, of the vital centres of the political police. As soon as such locations are detected subsequent to evidence collected by the civic committees, large groups of the organisation's members will surround the building and will simultaneously call the police and the public prosecutor, so that the location is brought to public knowledge. In extreme cases, when the competent authorities fail to act accordingly, the organisation is planning to resort, as further means of action, to a method used in the former GDR: Wall in all the political police workers then on site.

The organisation acts through its 11 departments: Location of Tapping Centres (LCI); Location of Mail Violation Centres (LCV); Detection of Party-Infiltrated Agents (LA); Identification of Media Intoxication Agents (LD); Identification of Securitate Tort-Feasers that are now working for the Political Police (IT); Detection of Securitate's Illegal Stores of Documents (LDS); Computer-Aided Data Processing (CD); Groups of Combat (GS); Vigilance Department (DV); Press Department.

PUNR Leader Interviewed on Party's Role

AU1907083391 Bucharest REALITATEA ROMANEASCA in Romanian 16 Jul 91 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Senator Radu Ceontea, president of the National Unity Party of Romania, PUNR, by Victor Milescu; date and place not given: "I Tried To Bring God Into Politics"]

[Text] [Milescu] Mr. Radu Ceontea, you were known before the revolution as a graphic designer. One of the most famous magazines, VATRA, owes its elegance to your hands, too. Looking back at your former occupation, can you notice themes of today's political activity in your graphics before the revolution?

[Ceontea] Yes. Certainly. I was not a dissident who chained himself to fences, put handcuffs on his hands, or started a hunger strike. However, those who know me also know the way in which, together with them, I showed a certain resistance of a different nature than the usual one, that is so popular both in our country and elsewhere in the East. It is a little difficult for me to talk about these things. These things have to be seen. But of course, if, in that time, my art was penetrated by the political "devil," now, I have tried to bring God a little, very little, into politics. Excuse my bombastic way of talking but, although disgusted with politics—just like our whole nation—I got scared when I saw my country at a loss, especially in Transylvania (I originally come from Tirgu Mures), and then I took a risk and entered political life—a hard life and unfortunately not a very clean one. I am not posing as an immaculate politician. However, my past is clean. I never made any concessions to the old totalitarian regime, and looking back at it now, I also played my part in working for the normalization of life, something that we all desire.

[Milescu] You are one of the founders of the Vatra Romaneasca. Why exactly you, the formerly discreet graphic designer?

[Ceontea] I never thought that one day I would be involved in political life. I desired the fall of the old regime. I contributed to certain things. I participated fully in the Tirgu Mures events. The moment that I saw power being seized in Tirgu Mures just by Mr. Karoly Kiraly's getting hold of a microphone, I said to myself: Oh, my God, why did I not get hold of that microphone? I was entitled to it, too. And that is when this ambition was born. When the question of electing a Steering Committee for the Vatra Romaneasca National Union was raised, the leaders of this organization—and there were quite a few of them—elected me, although I warned them not to do so because certainly I was bound to make mistakes. And I did make a mistake. But the mistake was not as great as one hears. I withdrew from the helm of the

Vatra Romaneasca, believing that my mission was relatively concluded, and I passed to the leadership of the National Unity Party of Romania with the intention of strengthening this political formation and with the hope that at the next parliamentary elections, Transylvania will be represented in the future governmental coalition the way it should be, because at the moment, we have only one Transylvanian minister.

[Milescu] Do you believe that the PUNR, of which you are president, is a product of the Vatra Romaneasca?

[Ceontea] It is as well to recall that when that miniparliament called the People's National Unity Council [CPUN] was established in Romania, we asked to be represented in this group. And it is very interesting for you to note that after the Party of the Romanies stepped down from the balcony, where it had the status of observer, and entered the CPUN plenum with full rights of interpellation and of expression, I asked the temporary leadership of that time to allow the Vatra Romaneasca to take the place of observer, for no other reason than the fact that within that ruling formation, believe me, the Hungarian extremists were frolicking about as if they were in another country and nobody had the logical basis and experience to reply to them. Logically, it was we who had the right to retort but we were not allowed to. This was happening on 7 March 1990. When we asked why, we were told that Vatra Romaneasca is not a political organization. But at that time neither the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania [UDMR] nor the National Salvation Front [FSN] were considered parties and (now that we mention it) did not think of participating in elections. We were told: Yes, it is true, but the UDMR is the organization of a minority. Our reply was: Well, are the Romanians not a minority in the counties of Harghita or Covasna? Who takes care of their protection? I did not succeed in convincing them and then I left with the intention of returning to Tirgu Mures and setting up a party that would represent the interests of Romanians in Transylvania under the political circumstances of that time. This party was set up with members of Vatra Romaneasca and thus it is the Vatra's offspring. No matter that we are told through the FSN that the Vatra Romaneasca should be at equal distance from all political parties; it is aberrant that the Vatra Romaneasca should be at the same distance from the PUNR—which sprang from it and from the need of this nonpolitical organization to have the opportunity for political expression—as it is from the UDMR. All the other political parties are placed between these two extremes and we are at various distances from each of them; the more clearly and efficiently they serve the cause that is being overlooked today in our country, that is the national cause, the closer we are to them.

[Milescu] Mr. Senator, do you intend to return to your initial profession or will you continue the difficult political mission that you have assumed?

[Ceontea] Unfortunately, I do not have time for my basic profession. A job that is not carried out daily is lost and graphic design needs to be practiced daily in order to keep it in shape. I feel that currently it is more necessary for me to do what I am doing at the moment. I do not know how efficient my efforts will be, but I will complete my mandate and if the electorate show that they have proper sympathy for the PUNR, I might even stay in this position. If not, thank God, there are enough parties; a party such as ours can withdraw from the political arena and leave room for other, more dynamic and better sponsored parties.

PNT Holds News Conference on Recent Problems

AU1907092691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0837 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/7/1991—"Although the National Peasant Party [PNT] was legally registered on 16 October 1990, it is only now that this party really comes to life," said Virgil Lambru, spokesman for this political party, member of its Steering Committee, at a news conference held Thursday, 18 July, at the History Museum of the town of Bucharest.

As Mr. Lambru said the nine-month inaction was primarily caused by "the hybrid Christian-Democratic National Peasant Party that tried, by various ways, to set obstacles to the real National Peasant Party, including its taking to court". Another cause would be the absence of adequate headquarters, in spite of requests, to the prime minister included. The statutes read to the attendance specify that this party is "a center political party, open to dialogue and cooperation with other parties, with the exception of extremist ones, to achieve the ideals of Romanians everywhere."

The first party created in Romania after 22 December 1989, the Christian-Democratic National Peasant Party, headed by Corneliu Coposu, former member of the historical National Peasant Party, considered itself to continue the latter, that had an important part to play in the political life of democratic Romania before World War II.

The communique sent on 28 August 1990 to "ROMPRES" to be released, announcing the setting up of the National Peasant Party, says that "this is the re-creation of the historical National Peasant Party, with which the Christian-Democratic National Peasant Party has no relation," according to the Steering Committee of the newly created political party.

Federal

Presidency Issues Message to Public

LD1807233591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2157 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—At its session today the SFRY Presidency adopted the following message for the public:

Yugoslavia is experiencing its most dramatic moments. The interethnic clashes and interrepublican confrontations are threatening war and catastrophic consequences for all our citizens, for all our nations and nationalities.

We must put an end to the use of force that has claimed and is still claiming human lives and that is pulling all of us further away from the materialization of our vital interests. These interests are democratic development and respect for the rights and freedoms of the citizen, as well as their constant improvement, and raising the quality of life. These interests are full equality and mutual respect for the right of all our nations to decide, independently and in a sovereign way, on their own fate and that of Yugoslavia; and freedom of communication and of establishing ties with the world and the achievements of modern civilization. All this can only be achieved through peace.

Facing up to war and peace, the SFRY Presidency is categorically and unanimously in favor of peace and the democratic outcome of the Yugoslav crisis.

The Yugoslav Presidency will do everything to overcome our divisions and mutual mistrust. While committing itself to oppose the use of force, it demands the same conduct on the part of all the republics and their leaderships. The SFRY Presidency advocates negotiations and dialogue on equal terms between the republics and a solution to the Yugoslav crisis on the basis of agreement as it also demands the same of the republics and their leaderships.

In seeking acceptable solutions for all our republics and all our nations and nationalities, the SFRY Presidency maintains that one should proceed from the real achievements of our coexistence and the principles included in the final Helsinki document and the Paris Charter on new Europe, as well as from the relevant norms of international law and the UN Charter.

The SFRY Presidency seeks the support of Yugoslavia's citizens for its perseverance at this commitment to peace and democracy.

At its meeting with the representatives of the republics, that is, representatives of the republican Presidencies, which will start on 22 July in Ohrid, the SFRY Presidency is going to call on the presidents to obligate themselves on behalf of their republics to stricly abide by these principles and commitments as the first move toward the peaceful resolution of all disputable issues. At this session, draft measures for the functioning of the system in the country during the three-month moratorium will be discussed and an agreement initiated on further work on seeking solutions for future relations in the Yugoslav community.

Let us concentrate on working and creating the conditions for overcoming the crisis and securing a new economic stability, social security, and cycle of development.

A nation's sovereign rights and will must not be infringed upon by anyone. We will achieve peace and the democratic outcome of our severe crisis for all of us on the basis of the freedom to decide about our future, it is said at the end of the SFRY Presidency's message to the public.

TANJUG Carries Presidency Statement

LD1907013491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2311 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 18 (TANJUG)—The Presidency of Yugoslavia decided at its session today to transfer the units of the Yugoslav People's Army from the territory of the Republic of Slovenia to other parts of Yugoslavia.

The decision, signed by president of the Presidency Stipan Mesic, reads:

The Presidency of Yugoslavia, at its session on July 18, 1991 came to the conclusion that the bodies and armed formations of the Republic of Slovenia [word indistinct] complying with the decision of the Presidency of Yugoslavia of July 12, 1991, and the provisions of the joint declaration and the accompanying documents adopted on Brioni on July 7, 1991.

The regimen on the borders existing before June 25, 1991 has not been restored. The blockade of all the units and facilities of the Yugoslav People's Army has not been lifted, supplies and free communication are being hampered. The empounded materiel and equipment of the Yugoslav People's Army have not been released. Territorial Defence units of the Republic of Slovenia have not been de-activated and demobilized. Recruits are not being sent to serve their army terms with the Yugoslav People's Army. The elementary human rights of Army members and their families have been grossly violated.

Taking as its point of departure its message to the public and its determination to secure without the use of force normal conditions of life and work for the Yugoslav People's Army members stationed in the Republic of Slovenia, the Presidency of Yugoslavia has, on the basis of Article 313 Section 3 and Article 316 Section 2 of the Constitution of Yugoslavia, taken the following decision:

1. That the commands, units and institutions of the Yugoslav People's Army no longer be stationed in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia until final agreement on the future of Yugoslavia has been reached. The

personnel and materiel of the 31st Corps to be transferred to the territory of the Republic of Serbia, and of the 14th Corps, to the territory of the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina. The transfer to be made within three months of the taking of this decision.

2. That the members of the permanent staff of the Yugoslav People's Army of Slovene nationality decide within three months whether or not they wish to remain in the Army. The procedure for terminating their service with the Army to be instituted by their superiors in the line of duty, except in the case of those who declare in writing their intention to remain in service with the Yugoslav People's Army.

Under the provisions of Article 1 of this decision, the service in the Yugoslav People's Army of the members of other nations and nationalities who reside in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia will be terminated if they submit such a request in writing.

3. That the implementation of this decision cannot be preconditioned by the resolving of any property-rights relations between the Republic of Slovenia and organs of the federation or other republics.

These questions will be resolved on the basis of and in accordance with the final agreement on the future of Yugoslavia.

4. That the authorized organs of the Republic of Slovenia secure that all armed units of the Republic and armed citizens back away from the facilities of the Yugoslav People's Army and in no way hinder the activities and actions of units and institutions of the Army.

They will also prevent all rallying of citizens and other manifestations in the vicinity of military facilities and commands, units and institutions of the Army on the move.

5. Pending the re-stationing of the Army from the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, that the members, commands, units and institutions of the Army must be secure (?in) normal conditions for living and performing their regular tasks, and that all persons employed in the Army and the members of their families be secured free movement in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia.

6. That the families of active military personnel and civilians employed in the Army who wish to move to other republics are allowed to move out freely with their entire movable property, at the cost of the Yugoslav People's Army. They are guaranteed the protection of the right to their immovables and other rights which they cannot realize until the date of moving out.

7. That the headquarters of the supreme command shall secure safe, [words indistinct] movement of units and all other actions contained in this decision.

8. That the adoption of this decision cancels Item 3 Para 1, and Item 2 regarding the Republic of Slovenia only, of the Yugoslav Presidency decision dated July 12, 1991.

9. This decision does not anticipate either the future organization of relations in Yugoslavia or its territorial integrity.

10. This decision becomes effective on the date of its adoption, and it will be announced in the mass media.

FEC Spokesman: Presidency Decision Accepted

AU1907145291 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Olivija Rusovac report]

[Text] A spokesman of the Federal Executive Council, Predrag Tasic, today held a news conference for domestic and foreign journalists on the subject of the SFRY Presidency's decision of last night. Olivija Rusovac was there.

[Rusovac] One could say that the journalists were only interested in what the stand of the Federal Government is with regard to the Presidency's decision of last night to withdraw the Army units from Slovenia.

The Army is obviously not coping in this situation, the spokesman of the Federal Government said. The Army was not formed with the intention of taking part in a civil war and is now wondering and trying either to impose itself as a partner on the civilian authorities or to adopt one of the political options, the Federal Executive Council's spokesman said.

Spokesman Tasic mentioned the speech by Marko Negovanovic, who attacked the Federal Government on behalf of the Army authorities when things began to become complicated, as an example of how the Army is trying to impose itself as a partner on the civilian authorities.

Tasic said that the Federal prime minister holds the view that, since the decision on the withdrawal of the Army from Slovenia has already been made, it should be accepted, but as a start to general demobilization, the return of weapons, and a halt to clashes.

These moves, according to Ante Markovic, as he said finally, must be made within a few days, Federal Executive Council's spokesman Predrag Tasic said.

Croatian President Criticizes Presidency Decision

LD1907100391 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0752 GMT 19 Jul

[Text] The SFRY Presidency has adopted a decision to resolve the current crisis in Slovenia at the proposal of Federal Secretary for National Defense Army General Veljko Kadijevic. In a phone statement for Croatian TV, President of the Croatian Government Josip Manolic assessed that Kadijevic's proposal contradicts the Brioni Declaration, as well as the EC proposal adopted by Croatia, Slovenia, and the Federal bodies. Through this

decision, some want to bypass the EC proposal and internationalization of the problem, Manolic said.

The President of the Croatian Government left the session because he was not allowed to speak.

Mesic Against Removing Army From Slovenia

LD1907081891 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0700 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Last night the Yugoslav Presidency decided by a majority vote to withdraw Army units from the territory of the Republic of Slovenia into other parts of Yugoslavia. Commands, units, and institutions of the Yugoslav Army will not be located on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia until a final agreement on the future of Yugoslavia is reached. Personnel and light property of 31 Corps will be moved to the territory of the Republic of Serbia and that belonging to 14 Corps on the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina within three months. In the same period, Slovene members of the permanent staff of the Yugoslav Army may decided whether to stay in the Army.

Upon written request, members of other nations and nationalities living on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia may terminate their service with the Yugoslav Army. The implementation of this decision is not conditioned by the resolution of property relations between the Republic of Slovenia and the federation or other republics. Competent Slovene bodies will ensure that all republican armed forces and citizens do not block objects belonging to the Yugoslav Army and do not hamper actions of the Yugoslav Army's units and institutions.

Yugoslav Presidency President Stipe Mesic, was against this decision, and Bogic Bogicevic [from Bosnia-Hercegovina] abstained from voting.

Defense Ministry: Croatian Official Seeking War

LD1907021191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0122 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 18 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Defence Ministry assessed tonight that the "official representatives of the Republic of Croatia are hysterically wanting and calling for a war."

In an announcement, the ministry's information centre points out that Croatia's officials "persist in repeating a pure and dangerous fabrication that Croatia is allegedly under attack by the Yugoslav People's Army."

The official who "had gone the farthest in scheming and launching dangerous fabrications," the announcement says, "is Croatia's self-styled Minister of War Sime Djodan at his press conference on July 17."

About Djodan, the announcement says that he is "evidently unnerved by the consistent fulfillment of the Army units' role as the force that prevents any larger-sized interethnic clashes and even armed actions by illegal armed formations in the Republic of Croatia."

As for Djodan's assertion that it is Croatia where the main frontline is, the announcement says that "Djodan does not say a word about the only truth that reveals how the paramilitary formations of the Republic of Croatia day and night persist in launching armed assaults on non-Croatian settlements and also on units and facilities of the Yugoslav People's Army."

As a result of such insanity, the announcement says, there have been hundreds of killed or wounded, and 30,000 refugees from Croatia.

"Minister of War Djodan asserts that the next four days will be most critical," says the announcement and adds that "this may be understood only as an open threat and sign that, unless this is one more empty propaganda phrase, armed actions had been planned out for this period in the lairs of war-mongers."

The announcement stresses that "Djodan unscrupulously invokes the spectres of the past, invokes the Yalta decisions, and invites a foreign military factor to avert a war otherwise being stirred up by himself."

The Federal Defence Ministry warns that such "[word indistinct] insanity must not and cannot get off easy... For its undoubted relation to immediate preparation and performance of armed actions, and for presenting to the general public at home and abroad a false image of events in Croatia."

The ministry's announcement adds that "this has been calculated to blame the Yugoslav People's Army for all future misdeeds and anti-people activities by the armed formations of the Republic of Croatia (word indistinct) of this republic."

The Yugoslav People's Army will not be taken in by provocations like this, instead, it will perform its share of obligations—says the announcement by the Federal Defence Ministry.

Secretariat Informs FEC of Brioni Violations

LD1807172891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1549 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—The border security and control system which was in force until 25 June this year, has not been re-established at the state border in the Republic of Slovenia. This is stated in the 17 July report which the Federal Secretariat for National Defense sent to the Federal Executive Council [FEC] in connection with implementing the 4 and 12 July Presidency decisions and the Brioni Declaration, the FEC Secretariat for Information revealed.

The report stresses that Slovene republican bodies have been implementing the mentioned decision only partially. Airport Cerklje and barracks in Ptuj, Slovenska

Bistrica, Novo Mesto, and Maribor are still under blockade. Occupied military warehouses, training grounds, and farms are still under the control of Slovene Territorial Defense units. Equipment and objects which the Slovene armed forces took over have not been returned yet. The Slovene armed units have not withdrawan into their peacetime locations and individuals were released from these units fully armed and equipped. The cease-fire is being observed in this republic, although automatic weapons fire was opened on the Meblo border outpost in the Nova Gorica region. Electricity and water supplies to Ljubljana barracks, and Cerklje and Ljubljana airports were cut off on 16 July. The movement of Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] members and vehicles is strictly controlled, that is, it is not allowed without permission.

The SFRY Presidency decisions are not being observed in Croatia too. YPA units' movements are being restricted. The food supply is hampered, especially to garrisons in Slavonija, Banija, and the Knin Krajina. YPA objects are not directly blocked in Croatia but they are under constant surveillance. In this republic, armed civilians and members of the Croatian Ministry for Internal Affairs are preparing road blocks on roads in the Bjelovar and Mudjumurje regions. Road blocks can be found on the Sisak-Petrinja road, as well as the Vukovar-Dalj and a large number of roads in eastern Slavonija. Instead of demobilizing the reserve force of the Ministry for Internal Affairs, the Croatian Defense Ministry has called up all men over the age of 16 to report to centers of education to join units of the National Guard. Fire was opened on YPA units near Vukovar, Pakrac, and Borovo Selo, and a missile was fired on a YPA plane from the village of Mlaka on 16 July. On the same day, an explosive device was thrown at a military object in Split. The YPA has not returned fire in any of these cases, the Federal Secretariat for National Defense report stresses.

With the worsening of intranational relations in Bosnia-Hercegovina, armed formations are being increasingly set up on a national and party basis. HDZ [Croatian Democratic Community] volunteer units have been formed in the villages of Koraca near Bosanski Brod and in Novo Selo, and Barricades were erected on the Gacko-Nevesinje road. The Federal Secretariat for National Defense report stresses that Slovene and Croatian bodies are not observing the decision to send July recruits into YPA units.

FEC Says Forceful Recruitment Legal

LD1807173591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1019 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—An authorized body which calls reservists to do military service can order internal affairs bodies to forcefully bring to military units recruits who do not heed call.

This is stated in a Federal Executive Council [FEC] reply to Musli Zusi, delegate of the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly. The reply was forwarded to the Yugoslav Assembly today.

Forceful recruitment is carried out by internal affairs bodies, and not by military bodies, because civilians and not military personnel are involved. Military reservists called to do military service become military personnel only at the moment of reporting to a military unit, that is, an institution designated by the draft paper, the FEC explains.

Reaction to Army Withdrawal From Slovenia

AU1907144091 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Mirjana Petrovic report]

[Text] Let us first mention last night's session of the Yugoslav Presidency, which took place after a prolonged debate about its location. Resolution was made to withdraw the Yugoslav People's Army from the territory of the Republic of Slovenia to other parts of Yugoslavia. This decision does not affect the future relationships within Yugoslavia, nor does it make its territorial integrity questionable, and it takes effect immediately.

Of course the decision has aroused a great variety of responses both within the country and in the world.

In Slovenia it was considered recognition of Slovenian independence, in Croatia as a mockery of the Brioni agreement with the EC, and in Bosnia-Hercegovina, as the most reasonable decision of the collective chief of state up to this time. Montenegro did not issue any official response yet, but unofficially, support and understanding of these measures are perceptible. In Macedonia there are various evaluations, and among citizens a sense of relief.

Mesic, Draskovic Discuss Crisis Resolution

LD1907131291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1236 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Jul (TANJUG)—"Nothing can be resolved by war," Stipe Mesic, president of the SFRY Presidency, and Vuk Draskovic, leader of the Serbian Renaissance Movement, agreed today during their meeting in the Palace of the Federation in Belgrade.

Vuk Draskovic stated that "there is no choice anymore, and borders in Yugoslavia must be tailored on the basis of the principle," as he put it, "that both Serbs and Croats are satisfied, and a compromise found for Bosnia."

Stipe Mesic stressed that there is no solution which could be reached unilaterally. "People should have equal rights. In the world, apart from island states, there are no absolutely just borders," Mesic said. He noted that 24

percent of Croats live outside Croatia, and that the same percentage of Serbs lives outside Serbia.

Presidency Session Continues in Belgrade

LD1807181191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1719 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 18 (TANJUG)—A session of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, which opened in Belgrade at 14:00 hours local time (12:00 GMT), is still in progress. According to established practice, it is held behind closed doors.

The session is proceeding according to the announced agenda and is still being attended by all eight members of the Presidency, learns TANJUG.

In the meantime, Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar has arrived from Paris and has joined the other participants.

According to available information, it is still impossible to say how long the session will last, but a statement for the public will, as usually, be issued after it.

Kostic Comments on Failed Presidency Sessions

AU1807092891 Belgrade RTV Sat TV in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Interview with Jugoslav Kostic, member of the SFRY Presidency, by a Belgrade Television reporter in Belgrade on 17 July—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Comrade Kostic, there is a view expressed by the public, which has been reported in the media, that the four members of the SFRY Presidency who did not go to Brioni are now in some way blocking the work of the Presidency and some people are claiming that they are doing so to spite Janez Drnovsek because of some of his statements. What can you say about this?

[Kostic] To be frank, this does exist among the public. Some citizens are accusing us and others are praising us. I would say categorically that our stand is that all working sessions of the Presidency should be held in the headquarters here in the city of Belgrade where the proper conditions for work are and where, as a rule, we hold expanded sessions, too. It is an exceptional thing, or this happens when we have come to an arrangement with all those who we invite, for us to be able to hold expanded sessions outside the headquarters of Belgrade.

Therefore, this is not spite but a principle that we hold working sessions here, where the headquarters of the Presidency is.

[Reporter] Well, yesterday there was the possibility of holding the session in Ohrid and not on Brioni. What do you say about that alternative?

[Kostic] The alternative for holding an expanded session in Ohrid was in order to include the presidents of the republics and the presidents of the Presidencies of the republics, since in this respect we did not reach...

[Reporter, interrupting] Who according to your information did not agree to this? Who did not agree to go to Brioni?

[Kostic] I would not take it upon myself to accuse one person or another. I think that the comrades, that is the gentlemen, who were on Brioni did not agree to this, but I would not like to be the one to make the accusations.

[Reporter] There are four members who did not go to Brioni today, too. You had so-called consultative meetings. What should be done now? We have learned unofficially that you have insisted that the sessions be held in Belgrade.

[Kostic] The four of us have been on the premises where we work every day and [words indistinct] and I think that it is incomprehensible that our headquarters is here but we are here the least. It is quite normal that we are in constant contact with each other and today, after we had met and talked, we decided to solely insist that we define once and for all, together with the president of the Presidency, that sessions, primarily working sessions, of the Presidency be held exclusively in its headquarters and that is here in Belgrade.

[Reporter] Tell us, Comrade Kostic, have you personally contacted the president of the Presidency at all yesterday, today, and in the last few days? Or has he contacted you?

[Kostic] To be frank, I contact him and he contacts me only through the general secretary.

[Reporter] These are then the only contacts?

[Kostic] At least as far as I am concerned, yesterday and today.

[Reporter] Tell me, can you comment on the statement by Vasil Tupurkovski, which was reported by some of the media, that everything that happened yesterday on Brioni was a political psychological game in which, as he put it, all of us have lost but mostly those who will lose their lives during the night, that is last night.

[Kostic] Vasil Tupurkovski has the responsibility before the Presidency of worrying about the implementation of the conclusions and stands that we adopted at recent sessions and he really has in the last few days had the mission to go around and outside Yugoslavia. He probably said this because he knows that people are being killed every day on the territory of Yugoslavia, and above all in the Republic of Croatia and even... [changes thought and repeats himself] but above all in the Republic of Croatia. This was why he made such a statement and it is true that it is our great responsibility to meet every day and take actions and activities and to demand the implementation of the conclusions. It is nice to write conclusions, but if they are not implemented then they just exist on paper.

[Reporter] In your personal opinion, Comrade Kostic, can the Presidency ensure that people will no longer be killed in this country?

[Kostic] I think that if this time we do not carry out our own conclusions, which were adopted, I must recall, on 9 January and 9 May then an extremely great danger really threatens for all citizens, but I think that reason among citizens will nevertheless not allow the worst to happen.

[Reporter] What in your opinion will happen and what could happen if the Presidency does not fully succeed in guaranteeing, to put it like that, the implementation of its most important conclusion on the consentaneous disarmament of paramilitary formations when the deadline expires tomorrow at midnight?

[Kostic] I have to say this openly, even though this is not in the least bit popular, when this deadline expires, if at the Presidency session we have not found the most suitable solution—and this would be a solution that would be realized within a couple of hours—then citizens might organize themselves because they are at the end of their tether and I think that we no longer have the right to keep them in uncertainty and agony.

Milosevic Receives Assembly Parties

AU1907145691 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The third round of talks between Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, and the representatives of three deputy caucuses of the Serbian Assembly ended in Belgrade today.

The deputy caucus of the Socialist Party was led by Radoman Bozovic; the Democratic Party was represented by Dragoljub Micunovic; and the Serbian Renewal Movement by Slobodan Rakitic.

The talks were held behind closed doors and lasted about three hours. Although there is no official information about the talks at present, it is assumed that today's talks represent only the continuation of the incipient talks on resolving the political situation in the country and the reconstruction of the republican government.

According to Dragoljub Micunovic, it is expected that journalists will be briefed on the outcome of today's talks at a news conference.

Banks Suspend Hard Currency Payments

LD1807164591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1049 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 18 (TANJUG)—The Executive Board of the Association of Banks of Yugoslavia has recommended to all banks which had a reduction in their foreign exchange deposits with the National Bank of Yugoslavia (NBY) in the first half of the year to adopt decisions suspending all payments of hard currency to citizens.

Under the proposal, banks would pay out the dinar equivalents of the deposited hard currency in keeping with their solvency.

The Association's announcement is only a recognition of the factual state on bank counters as depositors have had difficulties in withdrawing their hard currency savings since the beginning of the year, the Yugoslav press writes today.

According to the NBY, hard currency savings of Yugoslavs amounted to 12.2 billion dollars early this year.

The highest hard currency savings in banks were in Serbia—around 5.1 billion dollars.

At the same time, citizens in Croatia had around 2.5 billion dollars in foreign exchange savings accounts, in Slovenia 2.2 billion, in Bosnia-Hercegovina 1.6 billion, in Macedonia 671 million and in Montenegro 83 million dollars.

More than 90 percent of the hard currency savings have been deposited with the NBY, while banks are dealing with the hard currency as commissioners on behalf and for the interests of the central bank.

The Yugoslav Government has so far not given up guaranteeing foreign exchange savings although a moratorium on withdrawals has been proposed, with the promise to depositors that their savings would be paid out when the situation should permit.

There is no legal basis in Yugoslavia at present for servicing foreign exchange savings of citizens since the Yugoslav Assembly has not yet adopted a law on public debt nor a decision on the height of this year's budget due to the political turmoil in the country.

Croatian, Slovenian Trade Unions' Statement

LD1807164691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1518 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Zagreb, July 18 (TANJUG)—The trade unions of the Yugoslav Republics of Slovenia and Croatia today said they "do not recognize the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Yugoslavia," adding they would set up their own body for bilateral "coordination."

This is contained in the joint memorandum of the two trade union centrals of Slovenia and Croatia presented at a news conference in Zagreb today.

The memorandum, which is mainly a political document, expresses the orientation for overcoming the current Yugoslav crisis and a "peaceful" "disassociation of the independent and sovereign" Yugoslav republics.

The trade unions of the two Yugoslav republics, which late last month adopted decisions on independence, condemned the "terror of the Yugoslav Army," the "disastrous economic situation in the country" and the "plundering of property of Croatian and Slovenian firms."

The memorandum also questions the legitimacy of all Yugoslav state organs.

Only one point of the document mentions the social problems and demands the "establishment of a tripartite relationship between trade unions, employers and authorities."

Official Foresees 'Total Economic Collapse'

LD1907120691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1001 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 19 (TANJUG)—The political crisis in Yugoslavia has 'frozen' the practical implementation of all agreed financial arrangements for the next three months at least, as the Belgrade daily PRIVREDNI PREGLED says.

The daily quotes Assistant to the Federal Secretary for Foreign Economic Relations Boran Karadjole saying that Yugoslavia has been with one foot on Europe's door, and that Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are taking its place now. Yugoslavia will face a total economic collapse in a month, Karadjole said.

The stand of the European Community (E.C.) in principle is that Yugoslavia should be assisted after the three-month moratorium, the daily recalls. Conditions should be created in the next three months for practical realization of the assistance, the daily concludes.

Jovic on Withdrawal of YPA From Slovenia

LD1807215391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2105 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—At its session today, the Yugoslav Presidency decided to withdraw units of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] from Slovenia's territory. This is in full accordance with our political standpoint that the YPA should not be stationed in those parts of the country where it is regarded as a force of occupation. We maintain that by this move we have ensured the continuation of talks on the country's future without conflicts between the Slovene Army and the YPA and that we have made a significant step toward a peaceful outcome of the Yugoslav crisis.

This was stated by SFRY Presidency member Borisav Jovic to Belgrade Television's late news and current affairs program immediately after the end of the session.

We have scheduled a session with the presidents of the republics—that is, the presidents of the republican Presidencies—for Monday [22 July], at which questions regarding Yugoslavia's future, the denouement of the Yugoslav crisis, and all other key questions of how to emerge from this situation will be discussed. As we agreed, this work will go on permanently until we find a solution, Jovic said.

Did you set the date when the withdrawal of troops from Slovenia should begin, the Belgrade Television correspondent asked.

Under one plan, the withdrawal of troops should begin immediately and should be completed within a maximum period of three months, Borisav Jovic said.

Naval Military District Denies Sinj 'Rebellion'

LD1907130391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1218 GMT 19 jul 91

[Text] Split, 19 Jul (TANJUG)—The command of the Naval Military District today denied HINA [Croatian news agency] information, carried by Croatian television last night, about an alleged rebellion of soldiers in Sinj.

A statement for the public states: "A news item in the 1930 [1730 GMT] Croatian television news bulletin about an alleged rebellion of soldiers in the Sinj garrison—that is, in Sveti Rok—is false. We are thus informing the public that that was misinformation, a vile lie, slander, and a badly conceived insinuation, which does not reflect the situation in the Sinj garrison.

"On the other hand, the authors of this report tried unsuccessfully to relate Sveti Rok and the Sinj garrison, which are located in completely different geographical areas. This shows that these places cannot be related.

"These and similar fabrications are being presented to television viewers and Army members causing disturbances in military collectives, destroying their morale, and inciting an anti-Army mood among the viewers," the statement of the Naval Military District says.

International

Milosevic Receives Italian Delegation

LD1807125691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1146 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, today received a delegation of the Foreign Political Commission of the Italian Parliament's Chamber of Deputies, headed by Flaminio Piccoli, the commission chairman. Talks which took place on this occasion referred to current political situation in Yugoslavia.

Members of the Italian Parliamentary delegation were informed about the Republic of Serbia's stand on the need to resolve the Yugoslav crisis in a peaceful and legal way and with the help of Yugoslav institutions.

The talks were also attended by Branko Mikasinovic, Serbian minister of foreign affairs; Aleksandar Prlja, chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly of Serbia; Aleksandar Simovic, chairman of the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber's Foreign Affairs Committee; Sergio Vento, Italian ambassador in Belgrade.

Peterle Briefs German Ambassador on Situation

AU1807150791 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 18 July 91

[Text] Lojze Peterle, president of the Slovene Government, received Hans Joerg Eiff, German ambassador to Yugoslavia, in Ljubljana this morning. He briefed him on the sequence of the events after the intervention of the Yugoslav Army in Slovenia and on this occasion stressed that the closed Slovene airports are further proof that an economic war is also being waged against Slovenia.

The Slovene side, contrary to the Yugoslav side, favors a quick solution to the situation that has emerged, with the presence of the EC, Peterle said and emphasized that Slovenia suffers $1 million damage daily as a consequence of the war.

The German ambassador said that Slovenia must take advantage of the sympathies of the world public, although the latter in principle does not favor unilateral decisions.

Tudjman Comments on International Peace Force

LD1907003291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2252 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Bonn, July 18 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Franjo Tudman stated tonight that he was not ruling out the need for sending to Yugoslavia an international peace-keeping force.

Tudjman told a news conference that, in his talk with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, he voiced hope that an E.C. observer mission would be sufficient for the resolution of Yugoslavia's crisis but at the same time he was not ruling out the need for an international peace keeping force to arrive.

Tudjman made it clear that in his talks he did not "explicitly raise the question of recognition of Croatia" but he declined answers as to the other details of the talks. Tudjman underscored that Croatia was resolved to achieve its independence and sovereignty which presumed international subjectivity and its own armed forces. If this was possible within an alliance of sovereign states, said he, "we would favour that." After all that has happened, he added, such chances were thinning out but Croatia would continue efforts towards a democratic accord.

"I do believe we shall solve the crisis without a large-scale war, through negotiated agreement," said Tudjman.

EC Mission Spokesman on Tasks in Slovenia

LD1807172491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1255 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 18 (TANJUG)—The activities of the E.C. mission, which is to monitor the implementation of the Brioni Declaration, will concentrate on the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia, as mission's member and spokesman Marco Hennes has said.

To expand the mission's activities on the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, consent is necessary by all four interested sides—the E.C., Yugoslav Federal representatives, and Slovenian and Croatian officials, as Hennes said in a statement published in the Belgrade daily POLITIKA today.

The daily pointed out the 'demands by the Croatian authorities that the mission activities be extended also on Croatia,' and also the 'dilemmas caused by mission head Jo Van der Valk's statement that conflicts in Croatia did not come within his competence, and a London statement by Hans van den Broek of Holland, which currently holds the rotating E.C. presidency, that the reports on the mission not being able to act in Croatia were incorrect.'

'The activities of the E.C. monitoring mission will have no sense until uniform starting points are established to direct the Yugoslav crisis towards a peaceful and democratic solution,' the daily VJESNIK, published in the Croatian capital of Zagreb, said today.

'The mission is needed in both Slovenia, where the conflict was primarily political, and Croatia, where it was primarily inter-ethnic,' and where 'battles are fought to mark the borders of Greater Serbia,' VJESNIK set out.

'Monitoring mission's possible departure from Yugoslavia would be the worst solution, at least for Slovenia,' because it 'could hope for positive changes only through cooperation with the international public,' as the daily NEODVISNI DNEVNIK, published in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, wrote today.

The daily recalled van den Broek's statement in London on Wednesday that the observers might not even begin their mission unless the quareling sides in Yugoslavia showed readiness.

Albanians Attempting To Enter SFRY Illegally

LD1807194191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1722 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Skopje, July 18 (TANJUG)—Albanians are trying to cross illegally into Yugoslavia in the territory of the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, says Major-General Boce Perevski, assistant commander of the Third Army District whose jurisdiction extends over southern Yugoslavia.

Speaking at a press conference today, Major-General Perevski said that 'a number of demarcation stones have been overturned and the regimen on the border is being disrupted in numerous other ways'.

'The attempts at crossing the border illegally have been thwarted by the Yugoslav Army', Perevski stressed.

He went on to say that the recent mobilization of reservists to supplement the Armed Forces had been necessary in the Third, Skopje Army District.

Otherwise, and in view of the drop in the number of recruits from Croatia and Slovenia, the defence capability of the Army in this part of the country would have been greatly weakened, Perevski said.

Rumours that the commanding officers' treatment of the reservists is less than correct are 'fabrications aimed at harming the reputation of the Army with the people', Perevski said.

Speaking about reservists who have wilfully left their units, Perevski said that, unless they returned to barracks by July 20, they would be prosecuted.

Slovenia

Pucnik Assumes Government 'Serious and Honest'

AU1907120791 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1000 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Interview with Joze Pucnik, chairman of the Slovene Demos government alliance, by Roland Machatschke; place and date not given—recorded; interview conducted in German]

[Text] [Machatschke] Pucnik, how does the political leadership in Ljubljana assess the resolutions adopted by the State Presidency last night? Does this mean that Slovenia will be officially allowed to leave the Yugoslav federation now?

[Pucnik] No, not yet. This is not yet the case. We must continue to be cautious. However, last night's decision is an important step in this direction. Usually we only receive bad news from Belgrade, but this time good news reached us. We are glad about that.

[Machatschke] The State Presidency promised that the Army units that will be withdrawn from Slovenia will not be deployed in Croatia. Do you believe that?

[Pucnik] Yes, I do. The Army units are not needed directly in Croatia. However, they will be stationed in Serbia, close to the border. One unit will go to Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is also an area of conflict. Thus, this does not mean anything. Slovenia is important now that the Slovenes that still serve in the Federal Army are immediately released, unless they stay voluntarily. However, their number will certainly be small. Another significant aspect is that border control is no longer a contentious issue. As a result of the resolution adopted by the Presidency, Slovenia formally takes over the control of the border with foreign states, both in the north and south. This is naturally a very important step forward.

[Machatschke] How does the Slovene leadership assess the behavior of Presidency President Mesic who reportedly vehemently rejected the withdrawal of units of the Federal Army from Slovenia?

[Pucnik] Mr. Mesic is trying to play a very complicated game because the problems in Croatia are also very complicated. Mr. Mesic is now making efforts to link Croatia's fate as closely as possible with that of Slovenia, so that the two states should be treated as a single problem. Of course, this is not in Slovenia's interest.

[Machatschke] Mr. Pucnik, why do you think the Army leadership has decided to withdraw its soldiers from Slovenia? What was the decisive reason?

[Pucnik] There are probably several reasons. In my view, the most important reason was a shift of forces. They want to concentrate all forces in places where they expect the line of future conflicts to run. This is the border of Greater Serbia, advocated by the Serbs. This is one aspect. The second aspect is that the situation of the Army units in Slovenia has become unbearable. After the occupation attempt, people really disliked or even hated the soldiers. In addition, Slovenia's claim that the Army must withdraw sooner or later from Slovenia would have been fulfilled sooner or later, anyway. If the Army takes a certain initiative now, it can score a few points in public opinion in Europe and the world. However, I am not sure whether the conflict with the Army has been finally settled now. It will take a long time to pacify Yugoslavia. As long as Yugoslavia lives on the verge of a war as it were, the danger for Slovenia and the young Slovene state continues to be considerable.

[Machatschke] What about further political developments? Will Slovenia continue talks with the Federal Government, with the State Presidency? Will Slovenia participate in the extended State Presidency session, planned for Monday [22 July]?

[Pucnik] Yes, we will participate, and we will try to continue the negotiations to arrive at the solution of individual problems, if this is possible. However, we—particularly I personally—are very skeptical. Still, we must hold talks as long as there is a small chance for a peaceful settlement. Slovenia is still tied to this miserable Yugoslavia through many problems. We must regulate this somehow. We cannot simply say that we have nothing to do with Yugoslavia.

[Machatschke] However, is it true that there was relief in Slovenia after last night's decisions?

[Pucnik] Yes, there is no doubt about that. The decisions certainly led to a certain relief. We proceed from the assumption that the government is largely serious about its promises. We do not see any tricks and tactical maneuvers, no attempts to make us believe that we are safe while it is planning different things. We proceed from the assumption that the government is serious and honest in this connection.

Croatia

Minister on Military Activities, Unions' Demands

LD1807150191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Excerpts] A regular press conference was held today in the Croatian Assembly. Croatian Information Minster Hrvoje Hitrec, President of [word indistinct] Society Professor Dr. Zvonimir Separovic, and representatives of the Slovene and Croatian Trade Unions spoke about the current situation. Here is Zlatko Kuretic:

[Kuretic] Having briefed domestic and foreign journalists about terrorist activities in Croatia, republican Information Minister Hrvoje Hitrec said that the Command of the 5th Corps of the Air Force and Air Defence was removed yesterday to Bihac, that is, to its war headquarters.

Reservists are being increasingly called up in Montenegro, Hitrec said and reported that 44 employees of the Plitvice National Park had to leave their work places. [passage omitted]

Representatives of the Slovene and Croatian trade unions briefed domestic and foreign journalists about a joint 12-point memorandum. The memorandum says that trade unions demand the peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav crisis with EC involvement. The trade unions condemn terror waged by the Yugoslav Army and bringing into question the legality of all Federal organs and bodies. They condemn discrimination in Kosovo and the appropriation of property belonging to Serbian and Bosnia-Hercegovina branches of Slovene and Croatian enterprises. The Slovene and Croatian Trade Unions demand that the Yugoslav Presidency issue a statement saying whether it has the Yugoslav Army under control.

Opposition Parties Assail Serbian 'Aggression'

LD1807170591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1605 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Zagreb, July 18 (TANJUG)—Leaders of eight Croatian opposition parties on Thursday addressed an appeal to the public, warning that in their view, Croatia has become the scene of a comprehensive aggression by Greater-Serbian circles and the Yugoslav People's Army.

The parties which signed the appeal believe—their leaders told the press—that the "essence of the Yugoslav crisis does not lie in ethnic conflicts between Croats and Serbs, but in the imperial policy of the Serbian state" towards Croatia and other republics and provinces.

Such a Greater-Serbian policy "leads inevitably to a bloody war conflict which would claim tens and even hundreds of thousands of human lives," said the leaders of the Croatian opposition parties.

The parties therefore demanded the recognition of the independence and sovereignty of Slovenia, Croatia and all other Yugoslav republics within their existing borders, as well as of "Kosovo's right to self-determination" and "Vojvodina's right to the restoration of its autonomy."

The appeal was signed by the leaders of four Croatian conservative parties - the Croatian Democratic Party, the Croatian Christian Democratic Party, the Croatian People's Party and the Croatian Peasant Party, then the Croatian Social Liberal Union and the Social Democratic Party of Croatia, and two leftist parties - the Socialist Party of Croatia and the Party of Democratic Changes.

Assembly To Consider Government Reshuffle

LD1807141491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1212 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Zagreb, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—An extraordinary session of the Croatian Assembly will be held by the end of the month. The session will consider the current political trends in the republic and the country, as well as a proposal for a fresh reshuffle of the Croatian Government.

This was announced today in the Presidium of the Croatian Assembly. The Assembly president, Zarko Domljan, stressed that, most likely, seven new ministers will be appointed. It is believed that the prime minister designate, Franjo Greguric, will present a new government program to the Assembly and that the deputies will pass a resolution of confidence in the government and will vote on the program at the joint session by the end of the month.

Considering letters of the Serbian and Montenegrin Assemblies, which—as stated—"are attacking Croatia's sovereignty aggressively," the Croatian Assembly Presidium assessed that the Assembly should adopt a political stand on these unacceptable acts.

The Croatian Assembly Presidium also upheld a draft law on wages and other income, and reimbursment of expenses for some 350 Assembly deputies. It was also announced that deputies' rights will be considerably expanded and their salaries increased, but it is not yet known how the increase will be financed.

Fighting Continues in Serb-Populated Areas

LD1807204791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1925 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Zagreb, July 18 (TANJUG)—Fighting continued in some places of Croatia with mixed or predominantly Serb populations through the night and this morning, but reports are incomplete because the places are in blockades.

Gunfire was heard tonight between two villages in southern Croatia - Lisani, populated by Croats, and

Dalmatinska Ostrovica, populated by Serbs. Each side accuses the other of violating the ceasefire. Gunfire was also heard in Obrovac, a town with a predominantly Serb population in southern Croatia.

According to official Croatian sources, two Croatian policemen were killed in yesterday's shooting in the village of Lisani. The Croatian side says the police of the so-called Serbian autonomous region of Krajina yesterday attacked the police station in Lisani and shelled the village.

Mortar fire was heard early this morning in the Ccroatian village of Kostajnica near the border with the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. No statements have been issued about this incident yet. Croatian police control approaches to the town so that reporters could not establish who fired and whether anyone was killed.

The police station in Dvor na Uni, a town with a predominantly Serb population, said that a group of saboteurs, members of the Croatian police and guard—as it was said, were caught today near this town in central Croatia. As said, the group was planning to poison the waterworks of three villages where Serbs live.

The group was caught in possession of automatic rifles, bombs and 500 g of poison, it was announced.

Meanwhile, TANJUG has learned from reliable military sources that units of the Croatian Interior Ministry and the National Guard stole 6,000 various Yugoslav Army uniforms from a warehouse of the supply services of the Territorial Defense.

The same military sources said that armed members of the Croatian Democratic Union (CDU), the ruling party in Croatia, put on these uniforms to "execute various actions against the Serb population, members of the Yugoslav Army, and passengers in transit," especially in the territory of the ethnically mixed Croatian region of Slavonija.

The military sources accused CDU member and "self-proclaimed commander of the headquarters for the defense of Slavonija" Branimir Glavas of initiating and controlling these actions.

TANJUG reporters said that it was relatively peaceful today in Osijek, a city in Slavonija. It was peaceful today also in the nearby Serb-populated village of Tenja. Fierce clashes between Croatian police and guards, and the villagers took place here last week, but yesterday and today all was quiet.

Belgrade Radio Reports Serbian 'Armed Resistance'

AU1807155191 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The armed resistance of the Serbian people in Banija is assuming growing proportions. Fighting for Kostajnica in Croatia has been going on since this morning, and clashes between Serbian volunteer detachments and men of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MIA] of Croatia and of Croatian Guards around Dvor on the Una continued.

Here is a report by Dragan Demak:

[Begin Demak recording] At about 0530, the positions of MIA men in Kostajnica were attacked first by strong mortar fire, and then by rifle and machine-gun fire from elevations around this mountain town. The attack was carried out by Serbian volunteer units stationed at Samarica, and by armed citizens of Kostajnica region. The targets were the numerous dug-outs placed against Bosanska Kostajnica, the strong fortifications of MIA men by the railroad station, and the police station in Kostajnica on the road to Dvor.

There are no reports of casualties, because neither side has issued a report at this time. It is impossible to enter Kostajnica, and telephone communications are down.

Calm reigned between 0900 and 1200, but later the fighting resumed with even greater intensity, and it continues.

Attacks continued on the police station at Kozibrod and on the positions of the constabulary in Divusa and Struga in the territory of the commune of Dvor on the Una this morning. The war committee of the Dvor commune announced today that casualties in the fighting [words indistinct] numbered 60 MIA men and members of the Croatian Guard.

Great confusion reigns among the Croatian units in this region because of the fact that the attacks are increasing in intensity and because with the fall of Kostajnica, they could be completely cut off from Sisak and Zagreb. Many MIA mercenaries of Kozibrod, Divusa, and Kostajnica, including some Albanians and Kurds, have deserted. A group commandeered a bus of Slavija-Trans of Cetinje to run away.

The Dvor on the Una public security station has announced that a (?five-man) group of Croatian special troops was arrested two days ago. Their task was to poison the village water works and wells in the region of the communes of Glina, Topusko, and Dvor on the Una. Their names were [names indistinct]. Automatic rifles, hand grenades, pistols, and half a kilogram of poison were found on them. [end recording]

Split Police Implicated in Garrison Bombing

LD1807132491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1142 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Split, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—Early this morning, around 0300, a strong explosion was heard coming from the roof of the Termika enterprise, which is stationed in the courtyard of the Split Garrison Command. According to the available information, one perpetrator was hurt when the device exploded before it reached the

Command courtyard. The roof of the Termika enterprise is seriously damaged, and windows on nearby buildings are broken.

The command of the Naval Military District has just issued a statement, which states among other things:

"Two unidentified persons planted the explosive device. Following the explosions, they ran to the Split police station from which an ambulance took the injured person to a hospital.

"So, the police administration bodies know the identity of the perpetrators. It is significant that the perpetrators were running to the police administration building, where they found refuge. This prevented military bodies from identifying the perpetrators.

"It is also significant that the injured person wore a bright blue shirt with 'Police' insignia, which we could clearly see, although the perpetrators tried to hide this when the injured person was dispatched for medical treatment. So, we ask journalists who want to learn more about the case to address the Split police administration.

"We are using this opportunity to appeal to Split citizens, to all bodies of power, and party leaders to do everything to calm passions, and for people to return to normal life.

"We appeal to the bodies of the [Croatian] Ministry for Internal Affairs to prevent the uncontrolled movement of armed civilians. We also appeal to them to prevent armed civilians from controlling citizens, and in particular the unsuitable and illegal behavior of members of the Ministry for Internal Affairs, who, when checking the identity of active military personnel, are taking away their (personal and official) arms without issuing any proof that arms are being taken away, although in each case persons in question had permits for carrying arms.

"The command of the Naval Military District has been doing and will continue to do everything so that its units and personnel contribute as much as possible toward the stabilization of the situation and avoid causing disquiet among the citizens," the statement by the Naval Military District says among other things.

Police Deny Charges

LD1807165191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1602 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Split, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—This afternoon, the Split police denied the Naval District Command statement which claims that: during this morning's attack with explosives on the Split garrison command in Sukutsanska Street, the perpetrators withdrew to the police building where they were given protection and military organs were prevented from entering and carrying out identification of the perpetrators.

The police statement says that the Naval District Command—in a fairly unambiguous way—accuses members of the Croatian Interior Ministry of taking part in planting explosive devices and accuses the Split police of sheltering those who planted the explosives. To put it mildly, says the statement, this is unfair, especially since the authorized police workers have not yet completed their investigation and neither the perpetrators nor the circumstances behind this incident have not yet been established. [passage omitted]

'Strong Blasts' Heard Near Osijek Barracks

LD1907094891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0909 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Osijek, 19 Jul (TANJUG)—Three strong blasts coming from the Osijek barracks were heard last night. According to information from the Osijek police administration, explosions in the barracks were heard around 0400 [0200 GMT]. The command of the Osijek garrison told TANJUG journalists that explosives were thrown from Vukovarska Street. There were no casualties. An on-duty officer showed journalists a large garage for military trucks, at which explosive devices had been thrown. There were three large holes on the roof. The explosives in question, military experts claim, are made for industrial purposes. The on-duty officer claims that five bundles of dynamite were thrown. Two failed to explode and were found near the garage.

Immediately before the explosion, the guards at the barracks spotted a white Vauxhall Ascona without registration plates.

The police stated that it had not yet received official information about the explosion from the garrison command. This is the fifth bomb attack in Osijek in the past two days. [passage omitted]

Tension in Bosanska Krajina 'Growing'

AU1807163991 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Branislav Bozic report from Banja Luka]

[Text] Tension in Bosanska Krajina is growing constantly. The number of refugees from Croatia is increasing by the hour. Officially, there are just over 3,000, but in fact there are many more. In all the Bosanska Krajina commune, the reception staff is working day and night.

The forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MIA] and the National Guard of Croatia along the Una and the Sava facing Bosanska Krajina, and especially in Kozara and the region under Kozara, are constantly growing. There are machine-gun emplacements in the vicinity of all the bridges and places where ferries usually operate. Nobody counts the number of incidents of shots fired against the Bosnian side any more, but fortunately there have been no casualties.

The fighting that the Serbs in Banija are waging against the armed detachments of Croatia are very carefully

watched from the Bosnian side. Reporters of Banja Luka daily, GLAS, report today that 137 MIA men were killed in Banija near the Una yesterday morning. They quote Croat eyewitnesses, and thus contradict official Zagreb sources, which announced that four were killed. In fact, GLAS journalists assert that those killed were mercenaries, and their names are not even published.

Considerable movements by the Yugoslav People's Army were noticed in Bosanska Krajina today. Delegations of the Bosnia-Hercegovina authorities are visiting this region almost continuously. Until recently these authorities were rejecting all Bosanska Krajina appeals to join in safeguarding peace in this region.

Jesenice Police Station Attacked

LD1807131891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1113 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Split, July 18 (TANJUG)—Reservists of the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina attacked the police station in the Croatian village of Jesenice, some 30 km from the coastal town of Zadar, at 4:30 a.m. this morning (local time).

Zadar police said that light weapons and mortars were used in the hour-long attack, adding that 16 grenades were fired at eastern parts of the village.

According to available reports, no one in the village was killed, while Zadar police say that Croatian policemen and inhabitants of Jesenice successfully resisted the attack.

There was shooting and explosions in the town of Zadar itself during the night, but without any consequences, Zadar police announced.

Mortars Fired on Village, Policeman Killed

LD1907095691 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] We have been receiving news about explosions and shots being fired in Slavonija. Around 0200, almost 30 mortar shells were fired from the village of Bijelo Brdo on the village of (?Srvas). A shell hit the roof of a building housing members of the Croatian Ministry for Internal Affairs.

One policeman died and five were wounded and taken to the Pakrac Hospital in a clash between a police unit of the Bjelovar police administration and armed terrorists in (?Sirak) near Daruvar. The clash started this morning around 0500. After the police were informed by workers that armed terrorists had forced them to leave their work places, the police started to patrol (?Sirak), when they were ambushed.

The Split Intermunicipal Information Center revealed that last night around 1900, the Knin-Zadar rail line was mined between the villages of Rastenvic and Nadin in the Benkovac municipality. Passenger trains are going from Zadar to Skabrnje, and from Kistanje Selo to Knin. Buses are taking passengers between Skabrnje and Kistanje Selo.

Serbia

Assembly Gives Government Confidence Vote

LD1807200891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1840 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—The Serbian Assembly this evening passed a vote of confidence in the government of the Republic of Serbia. A debate on the proposal to pass a vote of no confidence, initiated by a group of 26 opposition deputies, lasted about four hours; it was attended by neither Premier Dragutin Zelenovic nor by a considerable number of government members.

Further on Vote

LD1907025991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2145 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 18 (TANJUG)—The Assembly of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia tonight gave a vote of confidence to the republican government by majority vote. The proposal to vote confidence in the government was given by 26 opposition deputies. Republican Prime Minister Dragutin Zelenovic and most of the government members did not attend the debate which lasted about four hours.

Almost all the deputies who took part in the debate maintained that the government had not lived up to expectations, but deputies of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia also showed understanding for the circumstances in which it had worked, while opposition deputies [word indistinct] it was incapable.

Serbian Vice-Premier Nikolay Stanic devoted most of his speech to attack [word indistinct], accusing it of frequently blocking the work of Parliament and contributing to the spreading of lies in the world that Serbia was a Bolshevik state.

Stanic criticized the opposition for supporting the election of Stipan Mesic of Croatia to the office of president of the Yugoslav Presidency and supporting the Federal Government whose decisions, in his opinion, endangered the vital interests of Serbia.

Opposition deputies loudly protested against this defense of the government, claiming that it had turned into "a vote of no confidence in the opposition."

Parliament Vice-President Borivoje Petrovic, an independent deputy, also expressed disagreement with Stanic's speech. Petrovic said that it was already clear that there had been many mistakes in the work of the government, that it should have intervened more strongly, and that it was not true that the opposition had only been in the way.

Daily Predicts 'Replacement' of Serbian Government

LD1807140991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0932 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 18 (TANJUG)—It is certain that the reconstruction or replacement of the Serbian Government will be announced at the next session of the Serbian Parliament, as the Belgrade daily POLITIKA said today.

The outcome of the talks between Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and the presidents of Parliamentary groups can be expected as soon as next week, when the names of the Serbian Government's new members will also be announced, POLITIKA set out.

The Serbian Government, elected on February 11 this year, has for some time now been criticized by Parliament members and part of the public for not being active and creative enough at a time when the state is facing a difficult situation caused by Yugoslavia's constitutional and economic crisis.

Opposition deputies in the Serbian Parliament and a 26-member deputy group have over the past few days been particularly active in their demand that the government be at least reconstructed.

The Serbian Government is made up of the prime minister, four deputy prime ministers, two of whom with ministerial portfolios, and 17 ministers, as POLITIKA said.

Three ministers resigned in the meantime. The Serbian foreign minister has been exposed to criticism of late, while demands have already been set forth for Prime Minister Dragutin Zelenovic and the industry minister to resign.

"It is clear that the government needs to be reconstructed at least," POLITIKA concluded.

Assembly Adopts Defense Law; No New Army

LD1807213391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2013 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 18 (TANJUG)—The parliament of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia adopted a law on defense at today's session held behind closed doors. A Serbian Defense Ministry statement said that the new law does not call for the introduction of a Serbian army or any paramilitary formation.

The statement said that the Serbian defense will continue to be based on Territorial Defense.

The Serbian Defense Ministry warned that "any forming of a Serbian army, national guard, or paramilitary formation under the control of any party would lead to divisions among the Serbian people and would weaken the defense of the Serbian people in Croatia."

The basic (?solutions) on the new law started from the "fact of the existence of Yugoslavia and its armed forces, as a guarantor for the country's integrity, resolving the Yugoslav crisis, preventing interethnic conflicts and civil war, and the protection of Serbs in Croatia," it was said.

"At the current critical moment, Serbia has a strong Territorial Defense, well armed, and prepared and trained well," the statement said. It is the obligation of the state "further to promote and train" the Territorial Defense of Serbia, the statement added.

More on Defense Law

LD1907004191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1609 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—After several hours of debate the Serbian Assembly adopted with unanimous approval a law on defence today. The law comprises 141 articles and was adopted behind closed doors. The Defense Ministry issued a statement following the session.

The Federal law on defense is still in effect, although Federal legislation has been suspended in some republics and special military formations are being organized. Even under such circumstances, the statement says, the principal provisions of the republican law proceed from the fact that Yugoslavia and its armed forces, in their capacity as the guarantor of the country's integrity, exist, as well as from the resolving of the Yugoslav crisis, preventing interethnic confrontations and civil war and the protection of Serbs in Croatia. [sentence as received] At this crucial moment, however, Serbia also has at its disposal a powerful Territorial Defense. It is well-armed, skilled, and trained for its tasks, while the state assumes the duty to continue to improve and train it, the statement points out.

Any information of a Serbian army, national guard, or paramilitary formations controlled by any particular party would lead to divisions among the Serbian people and would weaken the defense of the Serbian people in Croatia, the Defense Ministry maintains.

Only state organs have the exclusive authority to set up, organize and use armed forces, including reinforcing units of the Territorial Defense with volunteers.

Some of the most significant legal provisions are those that stipulate that defense is organized as a uniform state function across the entire territory of the republic, that municipal, city, and provincial secretariats for national defense have been abolished and that a defense ministry has been established. In addition to this, the statement adds, the number of enterprises which are duty-bound to plan their wartime production has been reduced. Defense needs are financed by the budget rather than by the funds, which have been the practice so far, while civil defense is being established as a function of the republic with vertical hierarchy.

Ethnic Albanians Declare Independent Future

LD1807190891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1430 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Geneva, July 18 (TANJUG) - The representatives of ethnic Abanians from Kosovo and Metohija, Serbia's southern province,[words indistinct] that they 'will no longer link their future to Serbia'.

The representatives of the Committee for Human Rights of Kosovo, the Kosovo Democratic League and the Kosovo Committee for Informing the Public Opinion held a news conference in the Geneva headquarters of the United Nations.

The representatives of these institutions said that, 'in case of Yugoslavia's survival, Albanians in Kosovo will fight for republic of Kosovo'.

They added that the 'Kosovo will resolve the question of its status within the framework of European institutions' if Yugoslavia breaks up.

Ethnic Albanians are a national minority in Yugoslavia.

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Izetbegovic Comments on Visit to Turkey

LD1807171691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2205 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] Sarajevo, July 17 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina Alija Izetbegovic this evening rated his just-concluded three-day visit to Turkey as a success.

'We have informed our friends in Turkey about our view of the problems in Yugoslavia and in Bosnia-Hercegovina,' Izetbegovic told reporters at [word indistinct].

He said he asked 'Turkish friends to present at the next Islamic conference in Istanbul the position of Bosnia-Hercegovina in regard to the situation in Yugoslavia.'

According to Izetbegovic, 'any conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina is like an oil-well fire—it is easy to set alight but very difficult to put out.'

Asked to comment on a report from Turkey that he had requested that Bosnia-Hercegovina take part in the Islamic conference, Izetbegovic said this was correct in a manner of speaking.

A group tasked with humanitarian questions will travel to the conference to present the situation in Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, he explained.

Izetbegovic said the group of about 40 Islamic countries which will take part in the conference 'should have a treatment equal to that of the European Community.'

Explaining the results of his visit, Izetbegovic informed journalists that it had been agreed that Exsim Bank would open a line of credit to Yugoslavia, through Bosnia-Hercegovina, and that agreement had been reached for Turkey to open a consulate in Sarajevo.

Izetbegovic was late last year elected president of Bosnia-Hercegovina as the head of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), a party which rallies exclusively Muslims living in this Yugoslav republic, which has an extremely diverse ethnic composition—43.77 per cent of its population are Muslims, 31.46 per cent are Serbs and 17.34 per cent are Croats.

Izetbegovic Requests Support From Turkey

LD1807105291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0920 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Ankara, July 18 (TANJUG)—Presidency of Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic stated that he has asked of Turkey support for his republic.

"Tensions in Yugoslavia could threaten peace in the whole region", and Turkey "can with its influence establish stability in the Balkans", said Izetbegovic in a special statement to the Turkish daily HURRIYET on Thursday. "Turkey," he added, "was influential as in the East so in the West" and could "convey the Bosnia-Hercegovina president's view to U.S. President George Bush and the conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic countries to be held in early August in Istanbul."

Asked whether Serbia and Croatia wished to dismember Bosnia-Hercegovina and establish a buffer Islamic republic, Izetbegovic said that "no one make the decisions on behalf of the people living in Bosnia-Hercegovina".

"We cannot be forced and if they try to we will resist with all means available," said Izetbegovic.

SDP Criticizes Izetbegovic's Initiatives

LD1807191791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1245 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Sarajevo, 18 Jul (TANJUG)—"The Social Democratic Party [SDP] of Bosnia-Hercegovina calls on Slobodan Milosevic to declare where he stands on Tudjman's statement in London," the SDP Presidium main committee said in a statement today issued in response to Franjo Tudjman's "London statement."

As a political party which advocates democratic solutions to the Yugoslav crisis, we feel dutybound to protest sharply against increasingly aggressive attempts to exacerbate the psychosis of war and the war situation and to transfer them onto Bosnia-Hercegovina. Concern is all the greater in light of the fact that the threat of force and almost overt calls to war are coming from the top representatives of the authorities in the republics. Milosevic's recent statement about Serbia's readiness to go to war as well as the calls to war by Sime Djodan, the minister of defense of Croatia have also produced an intimidating effect.

In his inimitable manner and without any authorization—and undemocratically—Djodan invokes Muslims and promises their mass participation in conflicts between the two hegemonistic nationalistic policies. History has shown that Croatian extremists and nationalists have always used Muslims for their own aims against the latter's national interests. Sime Djodan's statement once again exposes the intentions of Croatian extremists. In the SDP's view it is not in the interest of either the Muslims or any other nation in Bosnia-Hercegovina to enter into any kind of alliance with the hegemonistic and nationalistic policies of certain groups in both Croatia and Serbia.

"Alija Izetbegovic's latest initiative for Bosnia-Hercegovina's participation at a conference of Islamic countries is yet another in a whole series of irresponsile and catastrophic political moves he has made. Using political superficiality Alija Izetbegovic has tried to internationalize the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is almost unbelievable," the statement stresses.

"Izetbegovic must be aware of all the political consequences of his initiative on Bosnia-Hercegovina's fate. He must know that he has no right, as a state official and without the authorization of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly, to push the republic into political combinations which are not in the interests of the republic's citizens and each of its nations," the Bosnia-Hercegovina SDP says in conclusion.

Pro-Serb Parties Hold Sarajevo News Conferences

AU1807214391 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Report on news conferences held by the Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Democratic Action Party in Sarajevo on 18 July—live or recorded]

[Text] Alija Izetbegovic's request in Turkey that Bosnia-Hercegovina take part in the conference of Islamic countries was evaluated by [Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina chairman Dr. Radovan] Karadzic as a dangerous move. (?In this way all) our predictions, including even the gloomiest ones: that Izetbegovic wants Bosnia-Hercegovina to become an Islamic republic, are coming true said Karadzic, stressing that this would directly lead to division of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Responding to a correspondent's question about the increasing presence of Serbian guards in the republic, Karadjic said they are kept there not because of the neighborhood Muslims and Croats, but because of the members of the Croatian armed forces. We do not approve of the guards, but Serbian people cannot be calm as long as there is talk that 6,000 members of these forces are going to carry out an assault on Eastern Hercegovina, said Karadzic.

Nobody will ever engage in dividing Bosnia-Hercegovina, and nobody can discuss Bosnia-Hercegovina without the Muslim people or the Democratic Action Party. This was stated by Muhamed Tengic, vice president of the Democratic Action Party, at the party's press conference today, as he was commenting on the most recent statements regarding the division of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Muslim nation is clearly determined to defend its sovereignty and the borders of Bosnia-Hercegovina, said Tengic, and warned that we can no longer allow someone else, even for a single day, to plan the destiny of this republic as it pleases him.

The recent statement by Franjo Tudjman was interpreted by Tengic as a most obvious violation of Bosnia-Hercegovina's sovereignty, and if it proves to be correct, the Democratic Action Party will send a most severe protest to Croatia.

Serbian Democrats Says Refugee Needs Ignored

AU1807212091 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina is amazed to discover that the Muslim and Croatian members of the republic's presidency and government are ignoring Serbian refugees from Croatia in Bosanska Krajina. This was noted at today's press conference in the party's headquarters in Sarajevo by spokesman Miroslav Radovanovic.

The leader of the Serbian Democratic Party, Radovan Karadzic, announced tomorrow's promotion in Belgrade of the brochure titled "What Is The Serbs' Message?", and he pointed out that it represents the party's platform for resolving the Yugoslav crisis. The (?essential) issue in it is the survival of the Serbian people.